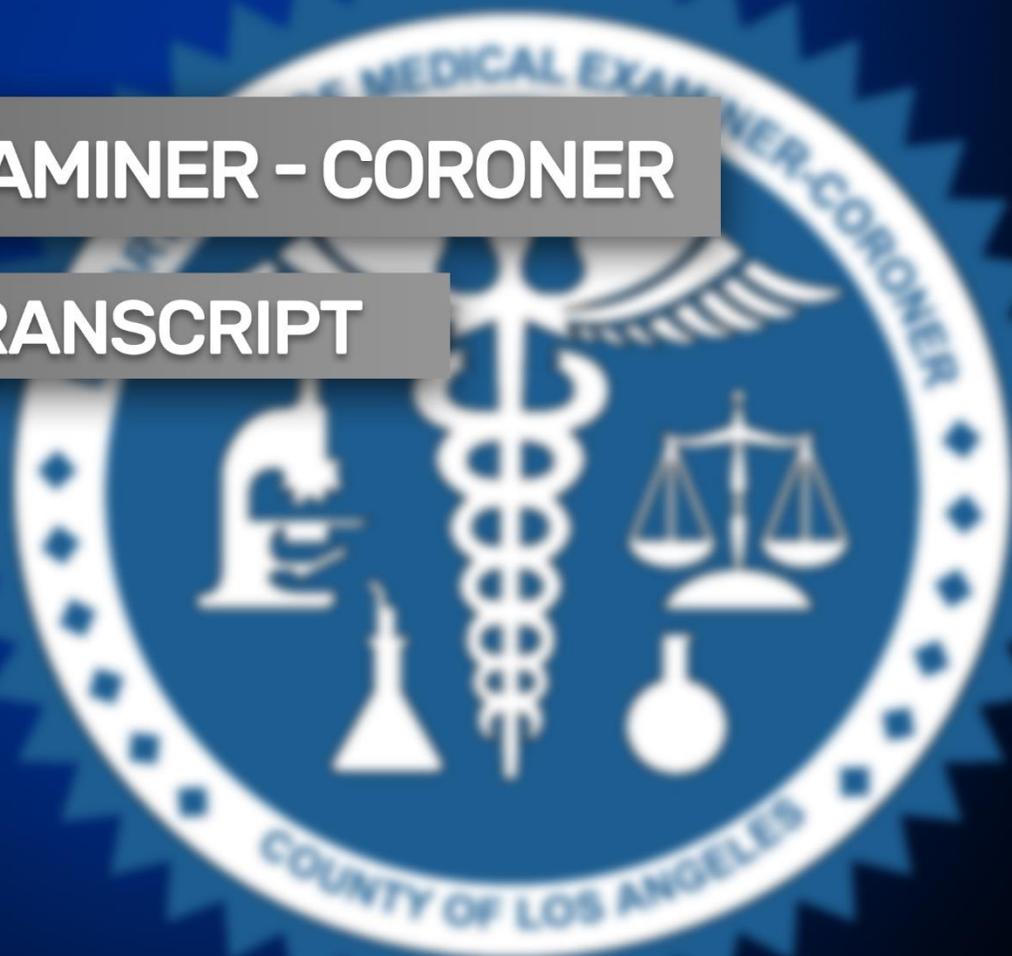


MEDICAL EXAMINER - CORONER

MEETING TRANSCRIPT





January 28, 2021

1 **THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER**
2 **INQUEST IN THE DEATH OF FRED WILLIAMS, JR.**
3 **THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2021**
4
5

6 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. IT LOOKS AS IF EVERYBODY HAS ASSEMBLED AND WE ARE
7 READY TO BEGIN. AND IF I'M NOT TOO MUFFLED, WE WILL START. WE ARE ON THE
8 RECORD AT THIS TIME IN THE MATTER OF THE DEATH OF FRED WILLIAMS III. I
9 WOULD LIKE FOR EVERYONE PRESENT TODAY IN THE BOARD HEARING ROOM AS WELL AS
10 THOSE INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY BY PROVIDING TESTIMONY, PLEASE
11 TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND ANY OTHER ELECTRONIC OR RECORDING DEVICES.
12 THIS MATTER CERTAIN A CORONER'S INQUEST. IT'S AN INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF
13 AN INDIVIDUAL. MY NAME IS CANDACE COOPER. I AM A RETIRED JUSTICE OF THE
14 CALIFORNIA COURT OF APPEAL. AND I AM THE HEARING OFFICER FOR THIS MATTER.
15 I HAVE WHEN ASSIGNED BY THE L.A. COUNTY MEDICAL CORP'S OFFICE TO
16 CONDUCT THIS INQUEST. THEY MAY ORDER A FORMAL INQUEST WHEN THERE'S A DEATH
17 OF ANYBODY IN THE COUNTY. GOVERNMENT 491.6. AS A MATTER OF PUBLIC POLICY,
18 AN INQUEST MAY BE HELD WHEN THERE IS A DIRECT CONNECTION BETWEEN LAW
19 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND THIS COUNTY AND THE DEATH OF A HUMAN BEING. THIS IS
20 NOT AN ADVERSARIAL PROCEEDING. UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW, THE DECISION AT THE
21 END OF THE INQUEST SHALL BE INADMISSIBLE IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL
22 PROCEEDING PER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 27502.2. HOWEVER THIS DOES NOT
23 MEAN THAT A SWORN STATEMENT OF A WITNESS AT AN INQUEST IS INADMISSIBLE AT
24 A SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDING. THIS INQUEST IS DESIGNED TO ASSURE THE
25 TRANSPARENT AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ALL THE EVIDENCE AND FINDINGS



January 28, 2021

1 PERTAINING TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CAUSE, AND MANNER OF THE DEATH OF MR.
2 FRED WILLIAMS III. THE FINDINGS MADE AT AN INQUEST DO NOT INCLUDE OR MAKE
3 ANY REFERENCE TO CIVIL OR CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE
4 DECEASED OR ANY OTHER PERSON. GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 27504. THE
5 INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTIONS USUALLY PERFORMED BY OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT
6 AGENCIES ARE NOT PART OF THE INQUEST PROCESS PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION
7 27491. THIS HEARING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR VIEWING ON THE LOS ANGELES
8 COUNTY CHANNEL FROM A WEBSITE BROWSER. WITNESSES ARE NOT EXCLUDED FROM
9 LISTENING TO OR WHEN SPACE PERMITTING DUE TO THE COVID RESTRICTIONS FROM
10 THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEARING ROOM DURING TESTIMONY. HOWEVER, DUE TO
11 THE CURRENT RISING NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
12 AND IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY GUIDELINES, I WILL BE
13 LIMITING IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE TO ESSENTIAL STAFF. THE TESTIMONY OF
14 WITNESSES WILL BE TAKEN REMOTELY. ALL OTHER INDIVIDUALS ARE WELCOME TO
15 ATTEND THE INQUEST PROCEEDING BY WATCHING VIA THE L.A. COUNTY CHANNEL OR
16 THE STREAMING VIDEO. ANYONE ENTERING THE HEARING ROOM IS REQUIRED TO WEAR
17 FACE MASKS OVER THEIR NOSE OR MOUTH AND REMAIN A MINIMUM DISTANCE OF 6
18 FEET FROM ANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS. THE REQUIREMENT APPLIES TO MYSELF, THE
19 EXAMINERS, THE STAFF, AND THE WITNESSES THAT APPEAR IN PERSON. BEFORE I
20 MOVE INTO THE EVIDENCE PHASE OF THIS HEARING, I WILL EXPLAIN WHAT WILL
21 HAPPEN AT TODAY'S HEARING. A COURT REPORTER IS TAKING DOWN EVERYTHING WE
22 SAY TODAY, SO A PROPER PUBLIC RECORD CAN BE MADE. REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT
23 CODE SECTION 27502. A TRANSCRIPT OF THE WITNESSES' TESTIMONY SHALL BE
24 FILED WITHIN 10 DAYS FOLLOWING THE INQUEST EITHER WITH THE CORONER'S
25 OFFICE OR AT THE COUNTY CLERK AS DETERMINED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



January 28, 2021

1 PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 27-503. I WILL CALL THE APPROPRIATE WITNESSES
2 AND WILL DIRECT ALL QUESTIONS OF THE WITNESSES. BECAUSE I WILL ALSO BE
3 ASSESSING THE WITNESSES AND TAKING NOTES DURING TESTIMONY IN ORDER TO
4 REACH MY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, I HAVE ASKED THAT COUNTY COUNSEL
5 ASSIST IN THE QUESTIONING OF EACH WITNESS. I HAVE CONFERRED WITH COUNTY
6 COUNSEL IN ADVANCE OF TODAY'S HEARING, REVIEWED THE PROPOSED LINE OF
7 QUESTIONING, AND AGREED ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE QUESTIONS TO BE
8 ASKED. DURING THE QUESTIONING OF WITNESSES, I RETAIN THE AUTHORITY TO ASK
9 FOLLOWUP QUESTIONS OR DIRECT COUNTY COUNSEL TO FOCUS THEIR LINE OF
10 QUESTIONING TO SPECIFIC ISSUES. THE WILLIAMS' FAMILY AND THE LOS ANGELES
11 COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITIES TO SUBMIT
12 POTENTIAL QUESTIONS FOR MY REVIEW. I HAVE RECEIVED SOME QUESTIONS, AND I
13 HAVE REVIEWED THEM. AND I WILL ASK THOSE OR DIRECT QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED
14 THAT I HAVE DEEMED TO BE MATERIAL AND RELEVANT TO THE PROCEEDINGS TODAY
15 AND DO NOT DUPLICATE QUESTIONS THAT I HAVE ALREADY IDENTIFIED TO BE ASKED.
16 I WOULD LIKE TO NOTE THAT ONLY QUESTIONS RELEVANT TO THE CHARGE, PURPOSE,
17 AND REQUIRED FINDINGS. INQUEST WILL BE CONSIDERED OR WILL BE ASKED.
18 FURTHER, BECAUSE THERE ARE MULTIPLE ADDITIONAL REASONS WHY SUBMITTED
19 QUESTIONS MAY NOT BE POSED TO A WITNESS, I WILL NOT ADDRESS THE REASONS
20 WHY I ELECTED TO EITHER ACCEPT OR REJECT A SPECIFIC PROPOSED QUESTION. MY
21 DECISION WILL BE BASED ON THE EVIDENCE RECEIVED IN THIS INQUEST. THAT
22 EVIDENCE WILL INCLUDE THE TESTIMONY PRESENTED AS WELL AS DOCUMENTARY
23 EVIDENCE RECEIVED, WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE DECLARATIONS, REPORTS, PHOTOGRAPHS,
24 AND OTHER RECORDS. THE EVIDENCE RECEIVED WILL BE IDENTIFIED IN THE RECORD
25 OF THE PROCEEDINGS. I AM THE SOLE DECIDER ON THE RELEVANCE AND



January 28, 2021

1 ADMISSIBILITY OF THE EVIDENCE OFFERED AND WILL UTILIZE STANDARD AND
2 HISTORICAL RULES OF ADMISSIBILITY IN MAKING THAT DETERMINATION. HOWEVER,
3 IT IS MY INTENTION TO RECEIVE REASONABLY AVAILABLE RELEVANT EVIDENCE FROM
4 RECIPIENT WITNESSES WHO WERE AT THE SCENE OF THE INCIDENT IMMEDIATELY
5 BEFORE, DURING, OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENTS. I WILL ALSO RECEIVE
6 PATHOLOGY EVIDENCE REGARDING THE DECEASED. AFTER HEARING ALL THE EVIDENCE,
7 I WILL TAKE A RECESS OR ADJOURN AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE EVIDENCE
8 AND TO MAKE A DECISION. MY TASK IS TO DETERMINE WHICH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING
9 FOUR POTENTIAL MODES OF DEATH APPLIED TO THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS. I'M
10 REQUIRED TO RENDER A DECISION SETTING FORTH: ONE, THE NAME. DECEASED; TWO,
11 THE TIME AND PLACE OF DEATH; THREE, THE MEDICAL CAUSE OF DEATH AND, FOUR,
12 WHETHER THE DEATH WAS BY NATURAL CAUSES, SUICIDE, ACCIDENT, OR THE HANDS
13 OF ANOTHER PERSON OTHER THAN BY ACCIDENT. PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 27-
14 504. IN DETERMINING THE MANNER OF DEATH, THERE ARE ONLY FOUR POSSIBLE
15 MODES OF DEATH DEFINED AS FOLLOWS: ONE IS NATURAL CAUSES. FOR EXAMPLE, A
16 HEART ATTACK, STROKE, OLD AGE, ET CETERA. DEATH BY NATURAL CAUSES IS A
17 DEATH ARISING FROM AN ACT OF NATURE AS OPPOSED TO ONE THAT IS ARTIFICIALLY
18 INDUCED. TWO, ACCIDENT. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE'S NO INTENT. THERE'S BEEN AN
19 ACCIDENT. A CAR CRASH, SOMETHING SIMILAR. DEATH BY ACCIDENT CAN REFER TO A
20 VARIETY OF UNFORESEEN OR UNINTENTIONAL EVENTS. SOME OF THOSE INVOLVE
21 NATURAL PHENOMENA SUCH AS DEATH BY FIRE, FLOOD, OR EARTHQUAKE, IN WHICH
22 CASE NO HUMAN AGENCY INVOLVED. ANOTHER TYPE OF ACCIDENT IS THAT THAT
23 RESULTS FROM HUMAN ACTS OR CONDUCT. DEATH BY ACCIDENT WHERE A HUMAN AGENCY
24 IS INVOLVED IS BEST DEFINED AS THE UNINTENDED OR UNEXPECTED RESULT OF
25 HUMAN CONDUCT. THE TERM "ACCIDENT" AS IT APPLIES TO THESE PROCEEDINGS IS



January 28, 2021

1 AN UNFORESEEN EVENT, MISFORTUNE, LOSS, ACT OR OMISSION. SUICIDE IS THE
2 TAKING OF ONE'S OWN LIFE OR PURPOSELY CAUSE ANOTHER TO TAKE ONE'S LIFE.
3 SUICIDE IS DEFINED AS AN INTENTIONAL ACT OF SELF-DESTRUCTION BY ONE WITH
4 SUFFICIENT TOUCH WITH REALITY TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF HIS OR HER ACT.
5 THE FACT THAT ANOTHER PERSON, INCLUDING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, ACTED
6 AS THE INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE DECEASED SUBJECT'S DEATH DOES NOT PRECLUDE A
7 FINDING OF SUICIDE WHEN THE SUBJECT INTENDED TO PRECIPITATE THE USE OF
8 DEADLY FORCE AGAINST HIMSELF OR HERSELF. AND, LASTLY, DEATH AT THE HANDS
9 OF ANOTHER OTHER THAN BY ACCIDENT. THIS IS -- WOULD BE THE PURPOSEFULLY
10 KILLED; FOR EXAMPLE, BEING SHOT, ET CETERA. DEATH AT THE HANDS OF ANOTHER,
11 OTHER THAN BY ACCIDENT, IS ESSENTIALLY SELF-EXPLANATORY. IT IS EITHER AN
12 INTENTIONAL ACT THAT DIRECTLY CAUSES THE DEATH OF ANOTHER PERSON OR AN
13 INTENTIONAL OMISSION TO ACT THAT DIRECTLY CAUSES THE DEATH OF ANOTHER
14 PERSON. I WILL DETERMINE THE MANNER OR MODE OF DEATH BY A MORE LIKELY TRUE
15 THAN NOT TRUE STANDARD. THAT IT MEANS IN EXAMINING ALL OF THE EVIDENCE, I
16 WILL DECIDE WHICH MODE OR MANNER OF DEATH OF THE FOUR LISTED CAUSES OF
17 DEATH IS MOST LIKELY TO BE TRUE. THIS IS PER EVIDENCE CODE SECTION 155 AND
18 ALSO REFLECTED IN CALIFORNIA JURY INSTRUCTIONS SECTION 200. LET ME
19 INTRODUCE THE EXAMINERS THAT ARE GOING TO BE EXAMINING THE MEMBERS OF THE
20 COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF THAT ARE ASSISTING ME IN ASKING THE QUESTIONS. MR.
21 JOSEPH LANGDON, PRINCIPAL DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL, PRESENT. GOOD MORNING.
22 MS. ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG, SENIOR DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL. PRESENT, OKAY,
23 THERE. AND MR. MICHAEL MILLER, DEPUTY COUNTY COUNSEL, ALSO PRESENT. WE'RE
24 NOW GOING TO MOVE INTO THE EVIDENTIARY PHASE OF THE PROCEEDING, INCLUDING
25 IDENTIFYING DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AND TAKING TESTIMONY FROM WITNESSES. AS I



January 28, 2021

1 HAVE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN ADVANCE OF
2 TODAY'S INQUEST SO THAT ALL WITNESSES CAN APPEAR AND TESTIFY REMOTELY.
3 WHEN TESTIFYING, I NEED ALL WITNESSES TO UNMUTE THEIR MICROPHONES AND MAKE
4 SURE THAT THEIR CAMERAS ARE TURNED ON. I NEED TO BE ABLE TO BOTH SEE AND
5 HEAR THE WITNESSES WHEN THEY PROVIDE TESTIMONY. SO WE WILL BEGIN WITH THE
6 TAKING OF THE EVIDENCE. I WILL START THE FIRST WITNESS TO BE CALLED IS
7 DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DR. VADIMS POUKENS. Q. THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. WE
8 SHOULD ADMINISTER THE OATH. THE REPORTER: EXCUSE ME. I'M SORRY. THERE'S
9 SOMETHING GOING ON WITH MY -- I DO NOT KNOW WHO'S SPEAKING.

10

11 **JUSTICE COOPER:** DO YOU SEE A GENTLEMAN WITH A WHITE MASK ON AND LOOKS
12 LIKE A BLACK VEST?

13

14 **MAN:** YES, ME. THE REPORTER: I DON'T SEE WHO WAS SPEAKING. WHO WAS ASKING
15 THE QUESTIONS? I'M SORRY. I NEED SOME HELP WITH -- I SEE EXHIBIT
16 PRESENTER, EXHIBIT PRESENTER. MR. LANGDON: YES, MS. COOPER. MY NAME IS
17 JOSEPH LANGDON. I WILL BE CONDUCTING THE EXAMINATION OF DR. POUKENS.

18

19 **THE REPORTER:** BUT I WON'T SEE YOUR FACE?

20

21 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** NO.

22

23 **THE REPORTER:** OKAY. AND I ALSO CAN'T SEE -- SOMETIMES WHEN I DO COURT
24 CALL, IT WILL SAY THE NAME. SPEAKER. BUT I DON'T SEE THAT, EITHER. I'M



January 28, 2021

1 JUST WONDERING IF THERE'S A DIFFERENT VIEW I CAN LOOK AT. I HAVE SPEAKER
2 VIEW. I GUESS I JUST WON'T GET TO SEE THEM.

3

4 **JUSTICE COOPER:** LET ME INTERJECT. THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON FOR YOU TO
5 SEE AND FOR ME TO SEE IS THE WITNESS, IS DR. POUKENS. MR. LANGDON IS
6 SITTING UP HERE TO MY LEFT A FEW FEET. AS LONG AS YOU CAN HEAR HIM CLEARLY
7 AND UNDERSTAND HIS QUESTIONS, I DON'T THINK IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT HIS FACE
8 BE IN THE SCREEN. IF YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE UNDERSTANDING EITHER MR. LANGDON
9 OR THE WITNESS AT ANY TIME, PLEASE LET US KNOW AND WE WILL ADJUST.

10

11 **THE REPORTER:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

12

13 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** THANK YOU. AND I'LL TRY TO SPEAK AS LOUDLY AS I CAN. GOOD
14 MORNING, DR. POUKENS, WE'RE GOING TO ADMINISTER THE OATH AT THIS TIME.

15

16 **JUSTICE COOPER:** I CAN DO THAT. DR. POUKENS, IF YOU WOULD RAISE YOUR RIGHT
17 HAND. DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR THE TESTIMONY YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE IN THE
18 CAUSE NOW PENDING SHALL TOBE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE
19 TRUTH?

20

21 **THE WITNESS:** I DO.

22

23 **JUSTICE COOPER:** AND WOULD YOU PLEASE BEGIN BY STATING YOUR NAME AND
24 SPELLING YOUR NAME FOR THE RECORD?

25

7



January 28, 2021

1 **THE WITNESS:** MY FIRST NAME IS VADIMS, V-A-D-I-M-S. LAST NAME IS POUKENS,
2 P LIKE PETER -- O-U-K-E-N-S.

3

4 **JUSTICE COOPER:** AND FOR THE COURT REPORTER, THIS EXAMINATION IS BEING
5 CONDUCTED BY MR. JOSEPH LANGDON.

6

7 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. Q. GOOD MORNING, DR. POUKENS, HOW
8 ARE YOU? A. I'M FINE. Q. DR. POUKENS, YOU ARE WORKING AS A MEDICAL
9 EXAMINER AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE ON OCTOBER 21ST, 2020;
10 CORRECT? A. YES. Q. AND, SIR, YOU ARE THE PHYSICIAN WHO PERFORMED THE
11 AUTOPSY ON MR. FRED WILLIAMS? A. YES. Q. BEFORE WE GET INTO YOUR
12 OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE AUTOPSY, MAY I ASK HOW LONG HAVE YOU
13 BEEN EMPLOYED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE? A. SINCE 2001.
14 Q. DO YOU HOLD ANY PROFESSIONAL LICENSES IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA? A.
15 YES. I'M LICENSED PHYSICIANS COUNTY CORONER AND I'M INVOLVED SET BY AT
16 ATOMIC PATHOLOGY AND FORENSIC PATHOLOGY. Q. PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR
17 EDUCATION, IF YOU PLEASE. WHERE DID YOU ATTEND MEDICAL SCHOOL? A. I DID
18 ATTEND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN LATVIA, IN EUROPE. AND I DID PATHOLOGY RESIDENCY
19 IN UCLA. Q. AND DID YOU ATTEND RESIDENCY PROGRAMS IN THE STATE OF
20 CALIFORNIA OR ELSEWHERE? A. IN UCLA, YES. Q. ARE YOU BOARD CERTIFIED, SIR?
21 A. YES. Q. IN WHAT SPECIAL SPECIALTIES, PLEASE? A. ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY AND
22 FORENSIC PATHOLOGY. Q. AND, SIR, WHAT DOES BOARD CERTIFIED MEAN, PLEASE?
23 A. YOU ARE A PHYSICIAN WHO IS QUALIFYING REGARDING EDUCATION, OTHER
24 CRITERIA, JUST TO BE SPECIALIST IN YOUR AREA. Q. THANK YOU. YOU PREPARED
25 THE AUTOPSY REPORT ON MR. FRED WILLIAMS; CORRECT? A. YES.



January 28, 2021

1

2 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** YOUR HONOR, I WILL MARK AS MEDICAL EXAMINER'S 1 THE
3 AUTOPSY REPORT. Q. DR. POUKENS, DO YOU HAVE YOUR AUTOPSY REPORT BEFORE
4 YOU, SIR? A. YES. Q. DID YOU -- YOU RECOGNIZE THIS DOCUMENT? A. YES. Q.
5 SIR, WHEN DID YOU PREPARE IT?

6

7 **THE AUTOPSY ON OCTOBER 21ST, 2020. Q. DID YOU DICTATE THE DOCUMENT AS YOU**
8 **CONDUCTED THE EXAMINATION? OR DID YOU REVIEW IT AND SIGN IT THEREAFTER? A.**
9 **I DICTATED REPORT SAME DAY AFTER EXAMINATION, AND I DID SIGN REPORT WHEN**
10 **IT WAS TYPED AND CORRECTED. Q. MAY I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO YOUR SIGNATURE**
11 **BLOCK ON THE AUTOPSY REPORT, IF I MAY, PLEASE. A. SURE. Q. DO YOU HAVE**
12 **THAT BEFORE YOU?**

13

14 >> **JOSEPH LANGTON:** YOUR HONOR, FOR THE RECORD, THAT IS BATES 27.

15

16 **THE WITNESS:** YES, I DO.

17

18 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** AND, SIR, WHAT IS THE DATE THAT YOU SIGNED THAT DOCUMENT?
19 A. OCTOBER 28, 2020. Q. AND THAT IS YOUR SIGNATURE, DR. POUKENS; CORRECT?
20 A. YES.

21

22 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** YOUR HONOR, THE CORONER OFFERS THE AUTOPSY REPORT AT THIS
23 TIME. Q. DR. POUKENS, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF AN AUTOPSY, PLEASE? A.
24 AUTOPSIES ARE DONE TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF DEATH. Q. AND YOU RECOVERED
25 EVIDENCE OF DEATH AT THE TIME OF THE AUTOPSY; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. Q.

9



January 28, 2021

1 WHAT PROJECTILE DID YOU RECOVER FROM THE BODY OF FRED WILLIAMS? A. I'M NOT
2 SURE. I RECOVERED BULLET. BULLET PROJECTILE. Q. DID YOU EVALUATE THE
3 TRAJECTORY OF THE BULLET THAT YOU LOCATED IN MR. WILLIAMS' BODY? A. YES.
4 Q. AND HOW DID YOU DO THAT, SIR? A. I DID OBSERVE AND DESCRIBE ENTRY
5 WOUND. AND THEN I REVIEWED CT SCAN AND FOUND THE BULLET EXACTLY AT KNOWN
6 LOCATION. AND JUST BY CONNECTING ENTRY WOUND AND RECOVERED PROJECTILE, I
7 WAS ABLE TO DETERMINE DIRECTION OF THE WOUND. Q. DID YOU ALSO EVALUATE
8 INTERNAL INJURIES TO DETERMINE TRAJECTORY OF THE PROJECTILE? A. YES. Q.
9 DID YOU USE A ROD IN THIS AUTOPSY? A. I DON'T REMEMBER. USUALLY I DO NOT
10 USE RODS, NO. Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A ROD? A. A ROD WILL HELP SOMEONE
11 TO DETERMINE DIRECTION OF THE GUNSHOT WOUND. Q. YOU DID NOT USE A ROD IN
12 THIS AUTOPSY, THOUGH; IS THAT CORRECT? A. I DON'T REMEMBER. BUT I USUALLY
13 DON'T USE RODS, NO. Q. DR. POUKENS, WHAT IS A MARGIN OF ABRASION, PLEASE?
14
15 THIS IS ABRASION USUALLY SURROUNDING THE GUNSHOT WOUND ENTRY SITE. Q.
16 DOES IT INDICATE THE ANGLE OF PROJECTILE ENTRY? A. IT MIGHT. Q. DR.
17 POUKENS, MAY I PLEASE ASK YOU TO REVIEW YOUR ANATOMIC SUMMARY, WHICH IS
18 IDENTIFIED ON YOUR AUTOPSYREPORT, BATES NUMBER 22? A. YES. Q. WOULD YOU
19 PLEASE READ INTO EVIDENCE YOUR CONCLUSIONS IN THE ANATOMIC SUMMARY? A.
20 WHICH PART? Q. ALL OF THE ITEMS, PLEASE. 1 A THROUGH F, IF YOU PLEASE. A.
21 SO BASICALLY JUST READ? Q. YES, PLEASE. A. OKAY. ANATOMIC SUMMARY.
22 INCIDENT WAS 25 YEARS OLD BLACK MALE. WAS SHOT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.
23 HE WAS PRONOUNCED AT THE SCENE. AND THEN THERE IS NUMBER 1, GUNSHOT WOUND
24 OF LEFT BACK. A, CENTER WOUND IS ROUND SHAPED AND MEASURES 3/8 OF AN INCH.
25 THE ENTRANCE WOUND IS SITUATED AT THE LEFT BACK 12 INCHES FROM THE HEAD



January 28, 2021

1 AND 7 INCHES LEFT FROM MIDLINE. SOOT OR STIPPLING IS NOT PRESENT. THE
2 SURROUNDING SKIN HAS 1/16 OF AN INCH ABRASION. B, THERE IS NO EXIT WOUND.
3 PERIOD. C, THE PROJECTILE WAS RECOVERED FROM THE LIVER 20 INCHES FROM THE
4 TOP OF THE HEAD AND 5 INCHES RIGHT FROM MIDLINE, AND SUBMITTED FOR
5 EVIDENCE. D, THE DIRECTION OF THE WOUND IS LEFT TO RIGHT, DOWNWARD, AND
6 SLIGHTLY BACK TO FRONT. E, THE WOUND PATH ENTERS THROUGH THE SKIN, LEFT
7 RIB NUMBER 5 LATERAL WITH FRACTURE, LEFT LUNG, AORTA, PROBABLE VERTEBRA
8 GRAZE, RIGHT LUNG, DIAGRAM, TERMINATING IN THE RIGHT LOBE OF THE LIVER.
9 AND, F, INJURIES COLUMN, LEFT HEMOTHORAX 500 CCS, RIGHT HEMOTHORAX, 900
10 CCS. Q. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. JUST TO GO OVER THIS, IF YOU PLEASE. YOU
11 FOUND THAT THE PROJECTILE STRUCK THE LIVER, FRACTURED THE LEFT NUMBER 5
12 RIB, STRUCK THE LEFT LUNG, THE AORTA, A PROBABLE VERTEBRA GRAZE, RIGHT
13 LUNG DAMAGE, DIAGRAM AND THE LIVER; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. Q. SIR, WHAT
14 IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A RIGHT AND LEFT HEMOTHORAX? A. DUE TO DAMAGE TO
15 INTERNAL ORGANS, A VICTIM DID BLEED INTERNALLY. SO ON RIGHT SIDE I
16 RECOVERED 900 CCS AND LEFT SIDE I RECOVERED 500 CCS OF BLOOD. Q. THANK
17 YOU. WHEN YOU SAY SOOT OR STIPPLING IS NOT PRESENT, WOULD YOU PLEASE
18 DESCRIBE WHAT THAT MEANS? A. SOOT, SURE. WHEN GUN IS DISCHARGED, BULLET IS
19 FLYING OUT OF THE MUZZLE. AFTER THE BULLET COMES OUT, SMOKE PARTICLES AND
20 POWDER PARTICLES IF THE MUZZLE IS CLOSE TO THE SKIN, SMOKE PARTICLES
21 LEAVES SOOT AROUND THE GUNSHOT WOUND ENTRY AND GUNPOWDER RESIDUE COULD
22 LEAVE STIPPLING. THESE ARE SMALL PUNCTATE MARKS SURROUNDING THE ENTRY
23 WOUND. Q. THANK YOU. DR. POUKENS, I'M GOING TO REFER TO MR. WILLIAMS'
24 INJURY AS INJURY NUMBER ONE. YOU DESCRIBED THAT AS A GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE
25 LEFT BACK; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. Q. ALL RIGHT. I'M GOING TO REFER YOUR



January 28, 2021

1 ATTENTION -- DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE CAPTION OF YOUR AUTOPSY REPORT
2 THAT SAYS GUNSHOT WOUND. AND FOR OUR PURPOSES, THAT IS BATES NUMBER 29.
3 AND IF WE CAN GET -- THERE WE GO. DR. POUKENS, DO YOU SEE THE DOCUMENT
4 BEFORE YOU ON THE SCREEN? A. YES. Q. WOULD YOU PLEASE READ YOUR FINDINGS
5 AT THE TOP REGARDING THE DIRECTION OF THE WOUND? A. SLIGHTLY BACK TO
6 FRONT, LEFT TO RIGHT, DOWNWARD. Q. AND UNDER YOUR OPINION, DOCTOR, YOU
7 INDICATE THAT THIS SINGLE WOUND WAS IMMEDIATELY LIFE-THREATENING DUE TO A
8 PERFORATED AORTA; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. Q. WOULD YOU PLEASE DESCRIBE
9 WHAT A PERFORATED AORTA MEANS. A. AORTA IS MAINBLOOD VESSEL CARRYING
10 BLOOD FROM THE HEART. AND IF IT'S INJURED, IT BLEEDS SIGNIFICANTLY,
11 DEFINITELY LIFE-THREATENING INJURY. Q. DRAWING YOUR ATTENTION TO THE
12 MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORTS, BATES NUMBER 30, WHICH IS THE NEXT PAGE, IT
13 HAS AN ANATOMICAL DESCRIPTION. DO YOU SEE THAT DOCUMENT, SIR? A. YES. Q.
14 TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL PROBABILITY, DR. POUKENS, ARE YOU ABLE
15 TO ESTIMATE MR. WILLIAMS' BODY POSITION AS IT RELATES TO BULLET
16 TRAJECTORY? A. I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION. Q. IN OTHER WORDS,
17 CAN YOU -- FORGIVE ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOU, PLEASE CONTINUE. A. SO I COULD
18 DETERMINE DIRECTION OF THE GUNSHOT WOUND IF I ASSUME BODY WAS STANDING
19 UPRIGHT IN ANATOMICAL POSITION LIKE IT IS RIGHT NOW IN THE PICTURE ON THE
20 SCREEN. I DON'T KNOW POSITION OF THE BODY AT THE TIME OF THE SHOT. Q. AS
21 IT RELATES TO THE BULLET'S TRAJECTORY, HOWEVER, DR. POUKENS, CAN YOU
22 ESTIMATE WITHIN A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL PROBABILITY HOW MR.
23 WILLIAMS WAS POSITIONED AT THE TIME HE WAS SHOT? A. NO. Q. OKAY. AND YOU
24 FOUND A 1/16-INCH ABRASION IN THE SKIN YOU DESCRIBED; CORRECT? A. YES. Q.
25 WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DID YOU DRAW FROM A 1/16 ABRASION? A. FOR ME IT'S JUST A



January 28, 2021

1 CLASSIC GUNSHOT WOUND ENTRY WOUND. SO GUNSHOT ENTRY WOUNDS HAVE PERIPHERAL
2 ABRASION, AND EXIT WOUNDS DO NOT HAVE. Q. DOES IT HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE AS
3 IT RELATES TO TRAJECTORY? A. NOT IN THIS CASE, NO. Q. AND IN LIGHT OF YOUR
4 PRIOR TESTIMONY, GIVEN THE 1/16 ABRASION AND TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF
5 MEDICAL PROBABILITY, ARE YOU ABLE TO DETERMINE IF MR. WILLIAMS WAS TURNING
6 WHEN HE WAS SHOT? A. NO, I DON'T. Q. TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL
7 PROBABILITY, DR. POUKENS, WAS MR. WILLIAMS' BACK TO THE DEPUTY WHEN HE WAS
8 SHOT? A. YES. Q. TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL PROBABILITY, DR.
9 POUKENS, HOW SOON AFTER SUSTAINING HIS WOUND DID MR. WILLIAMS DIE? A. MY
10 ESTIMATION IS RAPID. BY DEFINITION OF RAPID, IT INCLUDES BASICALLY FROM
11 FEW MINUTES UP TO AN HOUR. SO HE SHOULD BE DEAD WITHIN ONE HOUR. Q. WITH
12 THE PERFORATED AORTA; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. Q. DR. POUKENS, WHAT ARE
13 THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND NEUROLOGICAL EFFECTS TO MR. WILLIAMS' BODY AFTER
14 SUSTAINING INJURIES SUCH AS THESE?
15
16 >> A. IT IS NOT MY FIELD OF EXPERTISE. Q. TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF
17 MEDICAL PROBABILITY, WOULD MR. WILLIAMS HAVE COLLAPSED AS A RESULT OF THIS
18 SHOT? A. YES. Q. TO A REASONABLE GLEE OF MEDICAL PROBABILITY, WOULD MR.
19 WILLIAMS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REMAIN STANDING AFTER SUSTAINING THIS INJURY?
20 A. IT'S POSSIBLE, YES. Q. TO A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL PROBABILITY,
21 WOULD HE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MOVE HIS HANDS AND ARMS AFTER THIS INJURY? A.
22 YES. Q. DID YOU REVIEW MR. WILLIAMS' TOXICOLOGY REPORT, DR. POUKENS? AND
23 THAT'S IDENTIFIED AT BATES 33. A. YES, I DID. Q. DO YOU KNOW THE RESULTS?
24 A. YES, I DO. Q. WHAT ARE THOSE RESULTS, IF YOU PLEASE? A. TOXICOLOGY
25 SCREEN SHOWED PRESENCE OF MARIJUANA. Q. WHAT SIGNIFICANCE, IF ANY, DO YOU



January 28, 2021

1 DRAW FROM MR. WILLIAMS' PRESUMPTIVE OR POSITIVE TEST FOR MARIJUANA IN THE
2 TOXICOLOGY REPORT? A. NO CONCLUSIONS FOR ME. Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO
3 ADD, ELSE TO ADD TO YOUR TESTIMONY THIS MORNING, DR. POUKENS? A. NO.

4

5 >> **JOSEPH LANGTON:** YOUR HONOR, I HAVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OF THIS
6 WITNESS. AND YOUR HONOR, AT THIS TIME, THE CORONER WOULD CALL THE
7 CORONER'S INVESTIGATOR, LIANNA DARABEDYAN, IF YOU PLEASE.

8

9 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY.

10

11 **THE WITNESS:** ANYTHING ELSE?

12

13 **JUSTICE COOPER:** NO, DR. POUKENS, YOU ARE EXCUSED. THANK YOU.

14

15 **THE WITNESS:** THANK YOU.

16

17 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THANK YOU. NEXT WITNESS CALLED IS CORONER'S INVESTIGATOR
18 LIANNA DARABEDYAN.

19

20 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** THAT IS CORRECT, THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. GOOD MORNING, MS.
21 DARABEDYAN, HOW ARE YOU?

22

23 **THE WITNESS:** GOOD MORNING, I'M FINE.

24



January 28, 2021

1 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** YOUR HONOR, WE NEED TO ADMINISTER THE OATH TO MS.
2 DARABEDYAN.

3

4 **JUSTICE COOPER:** WOULD YOU PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND. DO YOU SOLEMNLY
5 SWEAR THE TESTIMONY YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE IN THE CAUSE NOW PENDING SHALL BE
6 THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH?

7

8 **THE WITNESS:** YES, I DO.

9

10 **JUSTICE COOPER:** WOULD YOU PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND SPELL YOUR NAME FOR
11 THE RECORD.

12

13 **THE WITNESS:** MY NAME IS LIANNA DARABEDYAN. FIRST NAME IS SPELLED L-I-A-N-
14 N-A, LAST NAME DARABEDYAN, D-A-R-A-B-E-D-Y-A-N.

15

16 **JUSTICE COOPER:** FOR THE COURT REPORTER, THIS EXAMINATION WILL ALSO BE BY
17 MR. JOSEPH LANGDON.

18

19 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. Q. GOOD MORNING, MS. DARABEDYAN.
20 WHAT IS YOUR OCCUPATION, PLEASE? A. I'M A CORONER INVESTIGATOR FOR L.A.
21 COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE. Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EMPLOYED WITH THE LOS
22 ANGELES COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE? A. SINCE SEPTEMBER OF 2018. Q. WOULD YOU
23 PLEASE PROVIDE JUSTICE COOPER WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR EMPLOYMENT
24 DUTIES. A. SURE. MY DUTIES ARE TO INVESTIGATE DEATHS THAT FALL --
25 CIRCUMSTANCES OF DEATH THAT FALL UNDER THE CORONER'S JURISDICTION. I

15



January 28, 2021

1 REPORT TO THE SCENE, TAKE PHOTOS, DO A BODY EXAM, COLLECT EVIDENCE, OBTAIN
2 INFORMATION FROM THE POLICE, INTERVIEW WITNESSES, FAMILY FRIENDS, OBTAIN
3 ANY OTHER MEDICAL INFORMATION THAT WOULD HELP US WITH THE INVESTIGATION,
4 NOTIFY NEXT OF KIN OR COORDINATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES REGARDING THE DEATH,
5 NOTIFICATION OF DEATH, WRITE MY REPORT, DO DATA ENTRY, AND ANY OTHER
6 INFORMATION THAT'S REQUESTED TO HELP WITH THE INVESTIGATION. Q. MS.
7 DARABEDYAN, YOU AUTHORED A CASE REPORT IN THE FRED WILLIAMS MATTER;
8 CORRECT? A. YES. Q. DO YOU HAVE YOUR REPORT BEFORE YOU? A. YES.

9

10 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** YOUR HONOR, I'LL REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL
11 EXAMINER BATES 35, WHICH CONSTITUTES MS. DARABEDYAN'S CASE REPORT. MR.
12 THOMPSON, THAT'S GOING TO BE BATES-STAMPED NUMBER 35, PLEASE, MS.
13 DARABEDYAN'S CASE REPORT. YOUR HONOR, MAY I HAVE A MOMENT, IF YOU PLEASE?

14

15 **JUSTICE COOPER:** YES.

16

17 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** WE NEED JUST A MOMENT, YOUR HONOR, BRINGING THAT DOCUMENT
18 UP. THERE YOU ARE. THAT'S THE AUTOPSY REPORT. Q. OKAY. MS. DARABEDYAN, DO
19 YOU SEE THE DOCUMENT BEFORE YOU? A. YES, I DO. Q. DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS
20 DOCUMENT? A. YES. IT IS OUR FORM 1. Q. WHEN DID YOU PREPARE THAT, PLEASE?
21 A. I PREPARED IT THROUGHOUT THE INVESTIGATION OR WHILE I WAS WRITING MY
22 REPORT, BUT IT WAS COMPLETED ON OCTOBER 18TH, 2020. Q. IS THAT YOUR
23 SIGNATURE AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT DOCUMENT? A. YES. Q. PLEASE TELL US THE
24 DATE, IF YOU PLEASE. A. OCTOBER 18, 2020, AT 2 A.M.

25



January 28, 2021

1 **JOSEPH LANGTON:** YOUR HONOR, I WOULD ASK THAT YOU RECEIVE THE MEDICAL
2 EXAMINER'S CASE REPORT FROM MS. DARABEDYAN.

3

4 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THAT'S FINE. Q. DIRECTING YOUR ATTENTION TO YOUR REPORT,
5 WOULD YOU PLEASE READ YOUR SYNOPSIS AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT REPORT? A. ON
6 OCTOBER 16TH, 2020, AT APPROXIMATELY 1730 HOURS, DEPUTIES ON PATROL NOTED
7 THAT DECEDENT TO HAVE A WEAPON IN HIS HAND. DEPUTIES PURSUED THE DECEDENT
8 ON FOOT. THE DECEDENT RAN INTO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE AND GOT ON TOP OF A
9 SHED. THE DECEDENT THEN POINTED HIS WEAPON AT THE DEPUTIES. THE DEPUTIES
10 SHOT AT THE DECEDENT, CAUSING THE DECEDENT TO FALL OVER INTO THE YARD OF
11 THE HOUSE LOCATED BEHIND. DEPUTIES THEN FOLLOWED TO THE YARD THAT THE
12 DECEDENT WAS LOCATED AT, TURNED THE DECEDENT OVER FROM A PRONE POSITION TO
13 A SUPINE POSITION, AND GAVE THE DECEDENT CHEST COMPRESSIONS WITH CPR.
14 PARAMEDICS FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT ENGINE 41 ARRIVED ON
15 SCENE. PARAMEDIC JOHNSON DETERMINED DEATH ON OCTOBER 16, 2020 AT 1805
16 HOURS. DETECTIVE DIMMITT AND SERGEANT O'BRIEN ARE REQUESTING TWO-HOUR
17 PRIOR TO INVESTIGATION CASE NOTES. Q. THANK YOU, MS. DARABEDYAN. YOU SAID
18 IN YOUR REPORT THAT DETECTIVE OH BRIAN WAS IDENTIFIED AS YOUR INFORMATION
19 SOURCE; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. SERGEANT O'BRIEN. Q. YOU ALSO REFERENCE A
20 DETECTIVE DIMMITT; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. HE WAS ALSO ON SCENE. Q. DID
21 YOU SPEAK WITH DETECTIVE DIMMITT ON SCENE? A. I DO NOT RECALL. MOST OF MY
22 INFORMATION I RECEIVED FROM SERGEANT O'BRIEN. Q. YOU SPOKE WITH SERGEANT
23 O'BRIEN ON SCENE; CORRECT? A. YES. Q. THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER
24 16, 2020, AT 5:30 P.M.; CORRECT? A. YES. Q. WHAT TIME DID YOU ARRIVE ON
25 SCENE, MS. DARABEDYAN? A. I ARRIVED ON 1:57 A.M. ON OCTOBER 17TH. Q. WHEN



January 28, 2021

1 DID YOU LEAVE, PLEASE? A. I CLEARED THE SCENE AT 2:05 A.M. Q. YOU LOCATED
2 THE DECEDENT LYING PRONE ON THE GROUND. WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL US WHAT
3 PRONE MEANS? A. WHEN I ARRIVED, HE WAS ALREADY SUPINE. PARAMEDICS HAD
4 MOVED HIM FROM A PRONE POSITION TO A SUPINE POSITION. A PRONE POSITION IS
5 WHEN YOUR CHEST IS DOWN AND YOUR BACK IS FACING UP. AND A SUPINE POSITION
6 IS WHEN YOU'RE LAYING ON YOUR BACK WITH YOUR CHEST FACING UP. Q. THANK
7 YOU. DETECTIVE O'BRIEN TOLD YOU THAT THE REASON THE DEPUTY'S ATTENTION IS
8 DRAWN TO MR. WILLIAMS IS BECAUSE DEPUTIES OBSERVED HIM WITH A WEAPON IN
9 HIS HAND; IS THAT CORRECT? A. CORRECT. Q. DID ANYONE GIVE YOU ANY FURTHER
10 DETAIL ABOUT WHAT DREW THE DEPUTY'S ATTENTION TO MR. WILLIAMS OVER AND
11 ABOVE DETECTIVE O'BRIEN'S STATEMENT? A. NO. Q. DID ANYBODY TELL YOU
12 WHETHER MR. WILLIAMS RAN FROM THE DEPUTIES WITH THE WEAPON IN HIS HAND OR
13 IF IT WAS IN HIS WAISTBAND? A. I DO NOT RECALL. I WAS JUST TOLD THAT THEY
14 NOTED THE WEAPON IN HIS HAND. AND THEN HE RAN FROM THE DEPUTIES. Q. AT THE
15 TIME OF THE SHOOTING, STRIKE THAT. DID ANYONE TELL YOU WHETHER MR.
16 WILLIAMS TURNED TOWARDS ANY DEPUTY AND POINTED A WEAPON AT THEM AT THE
17 TIME OF THE SHOOTING? A. YES. I WAS TOLD HE POINTED -- TURNED TO THE
18 DEPUTY, POINTED A WEAPON AT THE DEPUTY. Q. WHO PROVIDED YOU WITH THAT
19 INFORMATION? A. SERGEANT O'BRIEN. Q. DID ANYONE TELL YOU IN WHAT HAND MR.
20 WILLIAMS HELD THE WEAPON WHEN HE POINTED THE WEAPON AT THE DEPUTY? A. NO.
21 Q. TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, MS. DARABEDYAN, HOW MANY SHOTS DID THE DEPUTY FIRE?
22 A. I DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION. Q. DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY CASINGS WERE
23 LOCATED AT THE SCENE? A. I WAS TOLD THERE WERE A TOTAL OF EIGHT CASINGS.
24 Q. AND THAT IS REFERENCED ON BATES 36 UNDER INFORMANT WITNESS STATEMENTS
25 IN THE LAST SENTENCE. DID ANYONE TELL YOU WHETHER INVESTIGATORS LOCATED A



January 28, 2021

1 WEAPON ASSOCIATED TO MR. WILLIAMS AT THE SCENE? A. YES. Q. AND WHAT IS
2 YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WEAPON THAT WAS LOCATED AT THE SCENE? A. IT WAS
3 LOCATED BY THE DECEDENT, APPROXIMATELY A FEW FEET SOUTH OF THE DECEDENT.
4 BUT IT WAS PICKED UP PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL. Q. DID ANYONE TELL YOU WHY THE
5 WEAPON WAS PICKED UP BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL? A. NO. Q. YOU --I APOLOGIZE FOR
6 INTERRUPTING YOU. PLEASE CONTINUE. A. SORRY. IT WAS PICKED UP AND PLACED
7 INTO AN EVIDENCE BOX. Q. DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE THAT WEAPON ON SITE? A. YES.
8 Q. DID ANYONE TELL YOU WHY THE WEAPON WAS MOVED AFTER THE INCIDENT? A. NO.

9

10 **SPEAKER:** DID ANYONE TELL YOU WHETHER MR. WILLIAMS' FINGERPRINTS OR DNA
11 WAS LOCATED ON THAT WEAPON? A. I DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION. Q. IT'S
12 YOUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT TOOK THE WEAPON INTO
13 EVIDENCE; CORRECT? A. CORRECT. Q. CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE ME AN ESTIMATE HOW
14 MANY CONVERSATIONS YOU HELD WITH DETECTIVE O'BRIEN? A. BETWEEN 5 AND 10.
15 Q. WAS THAT AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT ON SITE, OR AFTERWARDS? A. ON
16 SITE. Q. CAN YOU PLEASE GIVE ME AN ESTIMATE OF HOW MANY CONVERSATIONS YOU
17 HAD WITH DETECTIVE DIMMITT?

18

19 **MAYBE ONE OR TWO, I DON'T REMEMBER. Q. WHAT WAS THE SUM OF THE**
20 **INFORMATION THAT DETECTIVE O'BRIEN TOLD YOU ON SITE? A. IT'S PRETTY MUCH**
21 **THE INFORMATION THAT'S LISTED IN MY FORM 3 UNDER INFORMATION AND WITNESS**
22 **STATEMENTS. Q. THAT IS REFERENCED BATES STAMP NUMBER 36, MR. THOMPSON. DID**
23 **YOU -- PURSUANT TO THAT PARAGRAPH, MS. DARABEDYAN, DID YOU HAVE ANY**
24 **CONVERSATIONS WITH PARAMEDICS FROM THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT,**
25 **ENGINE 41? A. NO. THEY HAD LEFT PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL. Q. DID DETECTIVE**

19



January 28, 2021

1 O'BRIEN TELL YOU THAT HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE CERTAIN INFORMATION DURING ANY
2 OF YOUR CONVERSATIONS? A. THAT WAS NEVER STATED. Q. DID DETECTIVE DIMMITT
3 TELL YOU THAT HE COULD NOT DISCLOSE ANY CONVERSATION DURING YOUR
4 CONVERSATIONS? A. THAT WAS NEVER STATED. Q. DID YOU ACTUALLY OBSERVE MR.
5 WILLIAMS AT THE INCIDENT SITE? A. YES, I DID. Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR
6 OBSERVATIONS. A. HE WAS SEEN LYING SUPINE IN THE BACKYARD OF A RESIDENCE.
7 THERE WERE SOME ANT ACTIVITY NOTED TO HIM. HE HAD EKG PATCHES. HOSPITAL
8 PATCHES ON HIM. HE HAD A GAUZE BAND-AID ON HIS LEFT INNER ELBOW. AND THERE
9 WAS AN APPARENT GUNSHOT WOUND NOTED TO HIS UPPER LEFT BACK. Q. DID YOU
10 NOTE ANYTHING UNUSUAL DURING YOUR OBSERVATIONS OF MR. WILLIAMS' BODY? A.
11 NO. Q. REFERRING TO YOUR REPORT, BATES 37, YOU INDICATE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE
12 WAS COLLECTED; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES. Q. WHAT ITEMS OF EVIDENCE DID YOU
13 COLLECT? A. A GSR KIT, A FINGERNAIL KIT AND A HAIR KIT. Q. THE TERM GSR,
14 WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, PLEASE? A. GUNSHOT RESIDUE. Q. YOU TOOK SAMPLES FROM
15 MR. WILLIAMS' BODY TO IDENTIFY GUNSHOT RESIDUE; IS THAT CORRECT? A. YES.
16 FROM HIS FACE AND BOTH HIS HANDS. Q. AND WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF TAKING
17 GUNSHOT RESIDUE SAMPLES? A. TO DETERMINE IF A FIREARM WAS DISCHARGED. Q.
18 DID ANYONE TELL YOU WHETHER GUNSHOT RESIDUE WAS ACTUALLY LOCATED ON ANY
19 PART OF MR. WILLIAMS' BODY? A. I DO NOT HAVE THAT INFORMATION. Q. DURING
20 YOUR INVESTIGATION, MS. DARABEDYAN, DID YOU NOTE ANYTHING UNUSUAL INTO THE
21 DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS? A. NO. Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO ADD TO
22 YOUR TESTIMONY TODAY? A. NO.
23
24 >> JOSEPH LANGTON: YOUR HONOR, I HAVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OF THIS
25 WITNESS.



January 28, 2021

1

2 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. MS. DARABEDYAN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOU ARE
3 EXCUSED.

4

5 **THE WITNESS:** THANK YOU.

6

7 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THE NEXT WITNESS TO BE CALLED IS LOS ANGELES FIRE
8 DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE DONALD BALANGUE. I'M NOT SURE OF THAT
9 PRONUNCIATION. REARRANGE THINGS FOR THE NEXT WITNESS. GIVE US A MOMENT.

10

11 **THE WITNESS:** GOOD MORNING, YOUR HONOR, CAN YOU HEAR ME OKAY?

12

13 **JUSTICE COOPER:** I CAN.

14

15 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** THE DEPARTMENT IS GOING TO CALL MR. JOHNSON FROM THE
16 LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT.

17

18 **JUSTICE COOPER:** MR. JOHNSON, I'M GOING TO SWEAR YOU IN. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

19

20 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** I THINK WE'RE WAITING FOR HIM TO BE ADMITTED. THERE
21 HE IS.

22

23 **THE REPORTER:** IS THAT MS. ALEXANDRA DECIDER WINNIPEG?

24

25 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** YES. ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG.

21



January 28, 2021

1

2 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THIS IS MR. JOHNSON?

3

4 **THE WITNESS:** YES, MA'AM.

5

6 **JUSTICE COOPER:** I NEED TO SWEAR YOU IN. RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND. DO YOU
7 SOLEMN ILLEGAL ALIENS SWEAR THAT THE TESTIMONY YOU WILL GIVE NOW PENDING
8 SHALL BE THE TRUTH, NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH?

9

10 **THE WITNESS:** I DO.

11

12 **JUSTICE COOPER:** WOULD YOU PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR FULL NAME FOR THE
13 RECORD.

14

15 **THE WITNESS:** RICHARD PHILIP JOHNSON. R-I-C-H-A-R-D, P-H-I-L-I-P, J-O-H-N-
16 S-O-N.

17

18 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THANK YOU.

19

20 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** Q. GOOD MORNING. ARE YOU AN EMPLOYEE OF THE LOS
21 ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT? A. YES. Q. AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN
22 EMPLOYED BY L.A. COUNTY FIRE? A. 12 YEARS. Q. AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION
23 WITH L.A. COUNTY FIRE? A. FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC. Q. AND HAVE YOU BEEN A
24 FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC FOR THE ENTIRE TIME YOU HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED WITH L.A.
25 COUNTY FIRE? A. NO. Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC? A.

22



January 28, 2021

1 2-1/2 YEARS. Q. AND YOU WERE ON DUTY AS A FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDICS ON
2 OCTOBER 16TH, 2020; CORRECT? A. CORRECT. Q. AND AT SOME POINT YOU WERE
3 DISCHARGED TO SOUTH WILLOWBROOK AVENUE NEAR EAST 120TH STREET; CORRECT? A.
4 CORRECT. Q. AT APPROXIMATELY WHAT TIME WERE YOU DISPATCHED? A. IT WAS IN
5 THE EARLY EVENING, I BELIEVE. Q. DOES AROUND 5:30 P.M. SOUND CORRECT? A.
6 YES. Q. AND WHAT INFORMATION DID YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU WERE DISPATCHED TO
7 THIS LOCATION? A. THAT IT WAS A TRAUMATIC FULL ARREST. Q. AND WERE YOU
8 AWARE THAT IT WAS A DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING THAT YOU WERE RESPONDING TO?
9 A. NO. Q. AND WHAT ARE YOUR TYPICAL DUTIES WHEN YOU RESPOND AS A PARE
10 FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC? WHAT WOULD YOU TYPICALLY DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE ON
11 SCENE? A. WHEN I ARRIVE ON SCENE, WE DO A SCENE SIZEUP, GATHER AS MUCH
12 INFORMATION AS WE CAN BY ASSESSING THE SCENE, WHO WAS THERE, WHAT THE
13 SURROUNDINGS ARE LIKE, AND WHAT THE PATIENT'S CURRENT CONDITION IS. AFTER
14 THAT, WE GO THROUGH OUR WHOLE PATIENT ASSESSMENT AND PROVIDE ANY
15 LIFESAVING MEASURES THAT WE CAN, THAT WE'RE TRAINED TO DO. Q. AND WHEN
16 ARRIVED AT SOUTH WILLOWBROOK AVENUE NEAR EAST 120TH STREET ON OCTOBER
17 16TH, 2020, WHAT DID YOU OBSERVE? A. WE DID GET SOME COMMUNICATION WITH
18 THE ENGINE CAPTAIN, AND HE STATED TO COME AROUND THE BACK STREET AND GO
19 THROUGH THE SHERIFFS WHERE THEY BLOCKED OFF THE STREET, AND THEN MEET THEM
20 IN THE BACKYARD OF A PARTICULAR ADDRESS, I DON'T RECALL WHAT THE ADDRESS
21 WAS. WE DID GET LED IN BY THE SHERIFFS. AND THEY HELPED US GET TO THE
22 ADDRESS. WALKING TO THAT ADDRESS, I HAD LOOKED AROUND TO SEE IF THERE WAS
23 A PATIENT, HOW WE WERE GOING TO GET HIM OUT. IT WAS A REALLY NARROW SIDE
24 YARD. AND THEN ONCE WE GOT TO WHERE THE PATIENT WAS, THERE WAS -- I
25 COULDN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY SHERIFFS THERE WERE, BUT THERE WERE PLENTY OF



January 28, 2021

1 SHERIFFS. AND THERE WAS THE ENGINE COMPANY WITH FOUR FIREMEN THERE. AND
2 THEY WERE DOING ACTIVE CPR IN PROGRESS. WHEN I ARRIVED AT THE PATIENT'S
3 SIDE, I DO RECALL A SHERIFF STATING "HEY, THIS IS WHERE THE GUN IS, TRY
4 NOT TO DISTURB THE EVIDENCE. " WE HAD PLENTY OF ROOM TO WORK SO I KNEW
5 THAT WASN'T GOING TO BE A PROBLEM. I SAW THAT THEY WERE STILL DOING CHEST
6 COMPRESSIONS. AND THEY WERE PROVIDING ARTIFICIAL VENTILATION FOR THE
7 PATIENT. AND THEY HAD ESTABLISHED IV ACCESS. AND THE INFORMATION THAT WAS
8 GIVEN TO ME THAT WAS HANDED OFF TO ME BY THE FIREMEN WAS THAT HE HAD ONE
9 PENETRATING CHEST TRAUMA POSTERIOR, LEFT SCAPULA. AND THAT WAS THE ONLY
10 TRAUMA THAT THEY FOUND. AT THAT POINT MY JOB IS TO ASSESS FOR ANY HEART
11 RHYTHM. SO I LOOK AT THEIR CARDIAC MONITOR. AND THE PATIENT WAS IN A
12 SYSTOLE, WHICH MEANS THERE IS NO ORGANIZED HEART RHYTHM AND THERE WAS NO
13 PULSE. AND THE PATIENT WAS NOT BREATHING. SO AT THAT POINT, WE CONTINUED
14 TO DO HIGH QUALITY CPR, CONTINUOUS CHEST COMPRESSIONS AND VENTILATIONS
15 EVERY 15 CHEST COMPRESSIONS. WE ESTABLISHED BASIC AIRWAY TO SECURE THE
16 AIRWAY SO THAT THE PATIENT WAS GOING TO GET THE BEST OXYGENATION POSSIBLE.
17 AND WE CONTINUED WITH IV FLUIDS AND CPR FOR THE DURATION OF THE 20 MINUTES
18 OF TOTAL CPR TIME. Q. AND AT THE CONCLUSION OF THAT, DID YOU PRONOUNCE MR.
19 WILLIAMS TO BE DECEASED? A. YES, PER HOUR POLICY, 814, PARAMEDICS IN THE
20 FIELD DETERMINE DEATH AFTER 20 MINUTES OF CPR WITH NO RHYTHM CHANGE, WHICH
21 HE WAS ASYSTOLE THE ENTIRE TIME. AND, GRANTED, IT WAS ALSO A TRAUMATIC
22 ARREST, THAT SINCE IT WAS A PENETRATING CHEST TRAUMA, HE WAS IN ASYSTOLE
23 THE ENTIRE TIME, WE DETERMINED DEATH AFTER FINISHING CPR.

24

24



January 28, 2021

1 NOW, GOING BACK TO WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, YOU SAID THAT YOU
2 HAD ARRIVED AND YOU OBSERVED MR. WILLIAMS TO BE ON HIS BACK; CORRECT? A.
3 YES. HE WAS ON HIS BACK WITH CPR IN PROGRESS. Q. OKAY. AND DID YOU SEE ANY
4 GUNSHOT WOUND? A. I DID DISCOVER THE ONE GUNSHOT WOUND POSTERIOR, LEFT
5 SCAPULA. Q. OKAY. AND THAT MEANS THAT IT WAS IN HIS BACK; CORRECT? A.
6 THAT'S CORRECT. Q. AND OTHER THAN THE GUNSHOT WOUND IN HIS BACK, DID YOU
7 SEE ANY OTHER GUNSHOT WOUNDS? A. THERE WAS NO OTHER TRAUMA, NO BLEEDING,
8 NOTHING THAT WE COULD FIND. Q. DID YOU SEE THE GUN THAT THE DEPUTY
9 SHERIFFS HAD MENTIONED TO YOU AT ANY POINT? A. I DID NOT SEE THE GUN. I
10 JUST RECALL THE SHERIFF STATING "HEY, THIS IS WHERE THE GUN IS. DON'T WANT
11 TO DISTURB THE EVIDENCE" SOMETHING OF THAT SORT. AND, AGAIN, IT WAS NOT A
12 PROBLEM FOR ME BECAUSE WE HAD PLENTY OF ROOM TO WORK ON RESUSCITATING THE
13 PATIENT. Q. AND ONCE THAT YOU DETERMINED THAT MR. WILLIAMS WAS DECEASED,
14 WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER THAT? A. AFTER THAT, I CONFERRED WITH ALL OF THE
15 FIRE DEPARTMENT THAT WERE THERE THAT THERE WAS NOTHING ELSE THAT WE WERE
16 GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO FOR THE PATIENT. AT THAT POINT, WE TOOK ALL OF OUR
17 EQUIPMENT. WE STEPPED AWAY. AND WE EXITED THE BACKYARD OF THAT RESIDENCE.
18 AND WE ALL MET OUTSIDE IN THE FRONT YARD. AND THEN WE ALL EXITED THE
19 STREET TOGETHER TO GET BACK TO OUR FIRE APPARATUS. Q. AND OTHER THAN THE
20 CONVERSATIONS THAT YOU MENTIONED WHEN YOU INITIALLY ARRIVED ON SCENE, DO
21 YOU RECALL HAVING ANY OTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF
22 DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES AT THE SCENE? A. NO. Q. AND DID YOU HEAR ANYONE MAKE
23 ANY STATEMENTS ABOUT HOW THE SHOOTING OCCURRED AT THE SCENE? A. IT WAS
24 VAGUELY THAT HE WAS ON TOP OF THE WALL AND THEN I THINK THAT'S WHEN THE
25 SHOT HAPPENED. AND THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE HOW HE THEN FELL DOWN INTO THE



January 28, 2021

1 BACKYARD OF THIS RESIDENCE. THE WALL WAS PROBABLY ABOUT 6 FEET TALL,
2 MAYBE? Q. AND OTHER THAN THOSE STATEMENTS, DID YOU HEAR ANY OTHER
3 STATEMENTS ABOUT HOW THE SHOOTING OCCURRED? A. NO. Q. IS THERE ANYTHING
4 ELSE THAT WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED ALREADY THAT YOU FEEL IS RELEVANT TO THE
5 CIRCUMSTANCES, CAUSE, OR MANNER OF MR. WILLIAMS' DEATH? A. NO. MS.

6 DARABEDYAN: THANK YOU SO MUCH. I HAVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS, YOUR HONOR.

7

8 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. YOU ARE EXCUSED AT THIS TIME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

9

10 **THE WITNESS:** THANK YOU.

11

12 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** AND, YOUR HONOR, THE CORONER WOULD NEXT LIKE TO CALL
13 ADRIAN VILLAREAL FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

14

15 **JUSTICE COOPER:** WE WILL SWITCH TO CONTINUE WITH MR. VILLAREAL. FOR THOSE
16 LISTENING IN, WE'LL RESUME AS SOON AS WE SWITCH CAMERAS AND SO FORTH TO
17 THE NEXT WITNESS.

18

19 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** YOUR HONOR, WE'VE BEEN INFORMED THAT MR. VILLAREAL
20 IS ONLY SHARING HIS AUDIO. IF THE COURT WOULD LIKE -- IF YOUR HONOR WOULD
21 LIKE, YOUR HONOR CAN REQUEST THAT HE TURN ON HIS VIDEO.

22

23 **JUSTICE COOPER:** DOES HE HAVE VIDEO AVAILABLE? [INAUDIBLE]

24

26



January 28, 2021

1 **JUSTICE COOPER:** MR. VILLAREAL. THIS IS JUSTICE COOPER, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

2 MR. VILLAREAL, ARE YOU PRESENT? THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A CONNECTION AS OF
3 YET.

4

5 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** ONE SECOND, YOUR HONOR, I'M GOING TO GO CHECK.

6

7 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. SURE. TAKE A PAUSE WHILE WE GET SET UP FOR THE NEXT
8 WITNESS.

9

10 **MAN:** HELLO?

11

12 **MAN:** (INAUDIBLE CONVERSATION). HE IS USING HIS PHONE FOR AUDIO. SHARE
13 SCREEN OR START VIDEO?

14

15 **MAN:** MR. VILLAREAL IS WORKING ON HIS VIDEO.

16

17 **MAN:** HELLO?

18

19 **JUSTICE COOPER:** HELLO, MR. VILLAREAL, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

20

21 **THE WITNESS:** YES, MA'AM. YES, MA'AM.

22

23 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THIS IS JUSTICE COOPER. I'M THE HEARING EXAMINER AT THE
24 INQUEST.

25

27



January 28, 2021

1 **THE WITNESS:** YES, MA'AM.

2

3 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. WE ARE TRYING TO GET STARTED WITH YOUR PORTION OF
4 THE EXAMINATION. I CAN HEAR YOU. DO YOU ALSO HAVE AVAILABLE A VIDEO?

5

6 **THE WITNESS:** IT SAYS ZOOM IS UNABLE TO DETECT A CAMERA. SO I DON'T THINK
7 THIS DESKTOP CAMERA OR COMPUTER THAT WE HAVE IN OUR OFFICE AT THE STATION
8 HAS A CAMERA.

9

10 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. IN THAT CASE, THEN, WE WILL PROCEED WITH THE AUDIO
11 ONLY.

12

13 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** CERTAINLY, YOUR HONOR.

14

15 **THE WITNESS:** YES, MA'AM.

16

17 **JUSTICE COOPER:** ALL RIGHT, NOW. YOU'RE GOING TO NEED TO FOLLOW MY
18 INSTRUCTIONS SINCE I CANNOT SEE YOU. I'M GOING TO ASK YOU, HOWEVER, TO
19 PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND. HAVE YOU DONE THAT?

20

21 **THE WITNESS:** YES, MA'AM.

22

23 **JUSTICE COOPER:** DO YOU SOLEMNLY SWEAR THE TESTIMONY YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE
24 IN THE CAUSE NOW PENDING SHALL BE THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND NOTHING
25 BUT THE TRUTH?

28



January 28, 2021

1

2 **THE WITNESS:** YES, MA'AM.

3

4 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. IF YOU CAN'T HEAR AT ANY TIME OR HAVE ANY
5 DIFFICULTY WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT, PLEASE LET US KNOW. RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE
6 GOING TO BE ASKED SOME QUESTIONS BY COUNTY COUNSEL, MS. ZUIDERWEG.

7

8 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. GOOD MORNING.

9

10 **THE WITNESS:** GOOD MORNING. Q. ARE YOU AN EMPLOYEE OF THE LOS ANGELES
11 COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT? A. YES, MA'AM. Q. AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN
12 EMPLOYED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT? A. I'M GOING TO BE TWO
13 YEARS FULL-TIME IN APRIL. Q. AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION WITH L.A. COUNTY
14 FIRE? A. FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC. Q. AND HAVE YOU BEEN A FIREFIGHTER
15 PARAMEDIC FOR THE ENTIRE TIME YOU HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED WITH L.A. COUNTY
16 FIRE? A. NO, MA'AM. Q. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A FIREFIGHTER PARAMEDIC? A.
17 I RECENTLY RENEWED MY MEDIC CERT WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES IN
18 DECEMBER? Q. SO THAT WOULD BE -- SORRY. GO AHEAD. A. YEAH, SO I WAS HIRED
19 AS A FIREFIGHTER AND HAD MY PARAMEDIC CERT AND JUST RENEWED MY PARAMEDIC
20 WITH THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES JUST RECENTLY IN DECEMBER. Q. AND YOU WERE
21 ON DUTY ON OCTOBER 16TH, 2020; CORRECT? A. YES, MA'AM. Q. AND WHAT WAS
22 YOUR JOB ON OCTOBER 16TH, 2020? A. I WAS DETAILED TO STATION 41 ON AN
23 OVERTIME, I BELIEVE. Q. AND WHAT WERE YOUR SPECIFIC DUTIES IN THAT
24 CAPACITY? A. TO OPERATE AS A FIREFIGHTER IF A FIRE WAS TO COME ABOUT,
25 EXTINGUISH ANY FIRES, RESPOND TO ANY RESCUES OR MEDICAL AIDS, STATION

29



January 28, 2021

1 DUTIES, WHATEVER THE CAPTAIN HAD ME TO DO THAT DAY. Q. ON OCTOBER 16TH,
2 2020, YOU WERE DISPATCHED TO SOUTH WILLOWBROOK AVENUE NEAR EAST 120TH
3 STREET; CORRECT? A. YES, MA'AM. Q. DO YOU RECALL AT APPROXIMATELY WHAT
4 TIME YOU WERE DISPATCHED TO THAT LOCATION? A. I DO NOT RECALL. Q. WOULD
5 APPROXIMATELY 5:30 SOUND CORRECT TO YOU? A. YEAH, IT SOUNDS ABOUT CORRECT.
6 Q. AND WHAT INFORMATION DID YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU WERE DISPATCHED TO THIS
7 LOCATION? A. I DON'T RECALL EXACTLY WHAT WAS ON THE TICKET OR THE NDC OR
8 WHAT WAS ON THE AUDIO WHEN WE GOT DISPATCHED. I JUST KNOW IT WAS A RESCUE
9 FOR A MEDICAL AID. Q. AND WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT SOUTH WILLOWBROOK AVENUE
10 NEAR 120TH STREET, WHAT DID YOU OBSERVE? A. ON THE WAY TO THE CALL, I
11 OBSERVED A HELICOPTER ABOVE OUR HEADS CIRCLING. AS WE PULLED CLOSER TO THE
12 DESTINATION OF WHERE THE CALL WAS DISPATCHED TO, I SAW MULTIPLE SHERIFFS
13 UNITS. IT WAS A CUL-DE-SAC. THERE WAS A PARK AT THE END OF THE CUL-DE-SAC.
14 Q. AND WERE YOU THE FIRST INDIVIDUAL FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT ON SCENE? A.
15 I BELIEVE WE WERE. Q. AND AT SOME POINT AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL, YOU WENT TO
16 MR. WILLIAMS' BODY; CORRECT?

17

18 YES, MA'AM. Q. AND WHAT DID YOU OBSERVE WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT MR. WILLIAMS'
19 BODY? A. I OBSERVED A SHERIFF DEPUTY I BELIEVE DOING CPR. ON THE WAY TO
20 MR. WILLIAMS, THEY -- THE SHERIFF -- A SHERIFF DEPUTY WAS TELLING ME THAT
21 THEY HAD BEEN DOING CPR FOR A FEW MINUTES. AND I SAW HIM PULSELESS APNEIC,
22 WITHOUT A PULSE APNEIC, AGAIN, NO SIGN OF LIFE FROM WHAT I COULD TELL. Q.
23 AND WHEN YOU FIRST SAW MR. WILLIAMS, WAS HE ON HIS BACK? A. YES, HE WAS ON
24 HIS BACK BECAUSE THEY WERE DOING COMPRESSIONS ON HIM. Q. AND DID YOU
25 OBSERVE A GUNSHOT WOUND ANYWHERE ON MR. WILLIAMS' BODY? A. YEAH, AS I

30



January 28, 2021

1 STARTED ASSESSING HIM, AFTER I GOT A PULSE, AND CHECKED FOR ANY
2 RESPIRATIONS AND GOT ON COMPRESSIONS WITH HIM. AS WE WERE DOING
3 COMPRESSIONS AND I HEARD SOMEWHAT OF THE STORY THAT HAPPENED, WHICH WAS A
4 GSW, I FLIPPED HIM TO SEE IF I COULD OBSERVE WHERE IT WAS AND IF I COULD
5 ADDRESS IT, MEANING IF I COULD DO ANYTHING TO HELP HIM. AND I DID OBSERVE
6 IT IN THE LEFT SCAPULA AREA OF HIS -- OF THE POSTERIOR ASPECT OF HIS BODY.
7 Q. AND YOU USED THE TERM GSW. DOES THAT MEAN GUNSHOT WOUND? A. YES, MA'AM.
8 Q. AND SO YOU STATED THAT YOU OBSERVED THE GUNSHOT WOUND IN HIS BACK;
9 CORRECT? A. YES, MA'AM. Q. SO, WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT MR. WILLIAMS' BODY,
10 ASSESSED THE NATURE OF HIS INJURIES, DID YOU DO ANYTHING ELSE TO ATTEMPT
11 TO RESUSCITATE MR. WILLIAMS? A. WE WERE DOING COMPRESSIONS. WE WERE GIVING
12 ARTIFICIAL RESPIRATIONS, MEANING A BAG VALVE MASK WITH OXYGEN. WE WERE
13 GIVING HIM COMPRESSIONS WITH ARTIFICIAL VENTILATIONS, BAGGING HIM IS WHAT
14 WE REFER TO HIM AS. WE ADDRESSED THE WOUND ON THE BACK, THE GUNSHOT WOUND.
15 THERE WAS VERY LITTLE BLEEDING ARE FROM WHAT I OBSERVED. BUT WE STILL
16 ADDRESSED IT. Q. AND WHILE YOU WERE ATTEMPTING TO SAVE MR. WILLIAMS' LIFE
17 OR RESUSCITATE MR. WILLIAMS, ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FROM L.A. COUNTY FIRE
18 ARRIVED AT SOME POINT; CORRECT? A. YES, MA'AM. Q. AND THESE INDIVIDUALS
19 ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE EFFORT TO RESUSCITATE MR. WILLIAMS; IS THAT
20 CORRECT? A. YES, MA'AM. THEY GOT ON SCENE. THEY BEGAN -- I DON'T KNOW
21 AROUND WHAT TIME FRAME, BUT THEY GOT ON SCENE. I TOLD THEM WHAT WE HAD,
22 WHAT I SAW WHEN I GOT ON SCENE, WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING SINCE WE'VE BEEN
23 ON SCENE. THEY STARTED TO GIVE HIM SOME FLUIDS, A FLUID CHALLENGE, MEANING
24 SOME NORMAL SALINE. THEY HAD HIM ON THE MONITOR, OF COURSE, OBSERVED
25 ASYSTOLE. YEAH, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT I SAW FROM THEM. Q. AND THEN AT



January 28, 2021

1 SOME POINT, PERSONNEL FROM L.A. COUNTY FIRE OFFICIALLY PRONOUNCED MR.
2 WILLIAMS TO BE DECEASED; CORRECT? A. YES, MA'AM. Q. AND AT ANY POINT IN
3 TIME WHILE YOU WERE WORKING ON MR. WILLIAMS, DID YOU SEE A GUN NEAR HIS
4 BODY? A. I DO NOT RECALL SEEING A GUN. Q. AND DID YOU HAVE ANY
5 CONVERSATIONS WITH ANY EMPLOYEES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF
6 DEPARTMENT WHEN YOU WERE AT THE SCENE? A. WHEN I GOT ON SCENE, I JUST
7 WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HOW MUCH TIME THEY HAD BEEN GIVING HIM CPR. AND A
8 BRIEF STORY OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED, WHICH IS THEM SAYING THAT THERE WAS A
9 GSW. I DON'T EVEN RECALL IF THEY TOLD ME WHERE IT WAS. BUT THAT WAS THE
10 ONLY CONVERSATION I HAD WITH THE SHERIFFS. Q. OTHER THAN THESE
11 CONVERSATIONS THAT YOU HAD WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
12 PERSONNEL, DID YOU HEAR ANYONE ELSE MAKE ANY OFFHAND REMARKS OR STATEMENTS
13 ABOUT HOW THE SHOOTING HAD OCCURRED? A. NO, I CAN'T RECALL ANYTHING LIKE
14 THAT. Q. AND ONCE L.A. COUNTY FIRE PERSONNEL PRONOUNCED MR. WILLIAMS
15 DECEASED, WHAT DID YOU DO AT THAT TIME? A. I HELPED THE REST OF OUR CREW
16 JUST KIND OF -- I THINK WE ACTUALLY GOT A BLANKET TO COVER HIS BODY. AND
17 WE WERE CONCERNED JUST GOING OUT TO THE PUBLIC JUST BECAUSE I REMEMBER
18 THEM -- THERE BEING A LOT OF PERSONNEL OUT THERE, A LOT OF CITIZENS IN THE
19 COMMUNITY WERE OUT THERE. AND WE ALL WANTED TO GO OUT IN ONE UNIT, UNIFIED
20 KIND OF -- AS A UNIFIED PERSONNEL, MEANING ALTOGETHER. BUT AS FAR AS
21 EVERYTHING ELSE, WE JUST GATHERED OUR EQUIPMENT, MADE SURE WE HAD
22 EVERYTHING IN OUR BAGS, IN OUR BOXES, AND LEFT THE SCENE ALL TOGETHER. Q.
23 IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED ALREADY THAT YOU FEEL IS
24 RELEVANT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCE, CAUSE AND MANNER OF MR. WILLIAMS' DEATH? A.
25 NO, MA'AM.



January 28, 2021

1

2 >> **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. I HAVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS
3 OF THIS WITNESS.

4

5 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. THANK YOU, MR. VILLAREAL, THAT'S ALL THE QUESTIONS
6 FOR YOU TODAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

7

8 **THE WITNESS:** ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU, MA'AM.

9

10 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THANK YOU.

11

12 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** YOUR HONOR, GIVEN THE TESTIMONY THAT WE'VE JUST
13 HEARD FROM L.A. COUNTY FIRE PERSONNEL, ANY FURTHER TESTIMONY FROM
14 ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FROM L.A. COUNTY FIRE WOULD BE DUPLICATIVE. SO WE
15 WOULD ASK THAT YOUR HONOR EXCUSE ANY REMAINING WITNESSES FROM L.A. COUNTY
16 FIRE.

17

18 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THAT WOULD BE AGREEABLE. THERE'S NO NECESSITY TO HAVE
19 CUMULATIVE OR DUPLICATE TESTIMONY. SO I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE AMERICA ADDS,
20 OR YSAIS, I DON'T KNOW THE PRONUNCIATION. I DON'T THINK IT'S NECESSARY TO
21 HEAR FURTHER FROM THEM.

22

23 **ALEXANDRA ZUIDERWEG:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR. I'LL MAKE SURE THAT THEY KNOW
24 THEY HAVE BEEN EXCUSED.

25

33



January 28, 2021

1 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY, THANK YOU.

2

3 **THE WITNESS:** HELLO?

4

5 **JUSTICE COOPER:** MR. VILLAREAL, IS THAT STILL YOU?

6

7 **THE WITNESS:** MA'AM, YES, MA'AM. SORRY TO INTERRUPT. I DIDN'T KNOW WHEN TO
8 HANG UP MY PHONE.

9

10 **JUSTICE COOPER:** YOU ARE FREE TO GO. WE HAVE CONCLUDED YOUR EXAMINATION.
11 THANK YOU.

12

13 **THE WITNESS:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

14

15 **JUSTICE COOPER:** NOW, AT SOME TIME THIS MORNING, WE ARE GOING TAKE A
16 MORNING RECESS. 10:30 WAS GOING TO BE THE TIME. IT'S A LITTLE BIT EARLY.
17 IT'S 10:12. [INAUDIBLE] AND WE CAN ALSO USE THAT TIME TO [INAUDIBLE] OKAY.
18 SO WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A 15-MINUTE RECESS. ACTUALLY TAKE A COUPLE MORE
19 MINUTES. WE'RE GOING TO RESUME AT 10:30. THANK YOU. (RECESS HELD.)

20

21 **JUSTICE COOPER:** I'VE GOTTEN THE SIGNAL THAT EVERYTHING IS READY TO REVIEW
22 WE WILL CONTINUE IN THE INQUEST PROCEEDINGS. I'M GOING TO REPEAT ONE THING
23 TO MAKE SURE IT'S CLEAR FOR THE RECORD AS TO SOME WITNESSES THAT HAVE JUST
24 TESTIFIED. IN ADDITION TO TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 THAT TESTIFIED TODAY, OTHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WERE

34



January 28, 2021

1 -- DID RESPOND TO THE SCENE AND WERE ALSO SUBPOENAED AS WITNESSES FOR
2 TODAY'S INQUEST. HOWEVER, I HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO CALL EACH AND EVERY ONE OF
3 THE SUBPOENAED WITNESSES TO THIS PROCEEDING BECAUSE, AS STATED, THEIR
4 TESTIMONY IS GOING TO REPEAT AND BE CUMULATIVE OF THE TESTIMONY THAT HAS
5 JUST BEEN HEARD. THIS MIGHT ALSO BE TRUE AS TO OTHER POTENTIAL WITNESSES.
6 FOR EXAMPLE, ONE OF THE CORONER'S EMPLOYEES TRANSPORTED MR. WILLIAMS' BODY
7 FROM THE SCENE TO THE AUTOPSY EXAMINATION ROOM. I DETERMINED THAT THAT
8 PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL'S TESTIMONY WAS NOT NECESSARY FOR ME TO HEAR IN
9 ORDER TO MAKE MY FINDINGS. AND THERE MAY BE OTHERS THAT FALL INTO SIMILAR
10 CATEGORY. IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE WHICH AND HOW MANY OF
11 THESE VARIOUS WITNESSES WE NEEDED TO CALL. THE NEXT STEP WE'RE GOING TO
12 MOVE INTO IS GOING TO RELATE TO EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY, RECORDS FROM THE
13 LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT. BEFORE WE RESUME WITH LIVE
14 WITNESSES, I'M GOING TO NOTE THAT THE L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT DID
15 PROVIDE ME WITH A SEALED FOLDER OF SUBPOENAED RECORDS IN ADVANCE OF
16 TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY WERE ACTUALLY PROVIDED ON A
17 ZIP DRIVE WHICH I APPRECIATED. I REVIEWED THOSE RECORDS IN ORDER TO
18 PREPARE FOR TODAY'S HEARINGS. THOSE PARTICULAR SEALED RECORDS WILL REMAIN
19 EXCLUDED FROM THE PUBLIC RECORD AT THIS TIME PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA
20 GOVERNMENT CODE 27-498. IN ADDITION, THE CORONER REVIEWED A PUBLICLY
21 AVAILABLE CRITICAL INCIDENT BRIEFING VIDEO RELEASED BY THE L.A. COUNTY
22 SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE SHOOTING INCIDENT AND THE INVESTIGATION
23 INTO THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS. I WOULD LIKE TO PLAY THAT VIDEO AT TODAY'S
24 PROCEEDINGS. THIS VIDEO PROVIDES SOME DETAILS PERTAINING TO THE
25 CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING MR. WILLIAMS' DEATH. BEFORE WE PLAY THE VIDEO, I



January 28, 2021

1 WANT TO INFORM THE AUDIENCE THAT THE VIDEO CONTAINS FOOTAGE OF THE DEPUTY-
2 INVOLVED SHOOTING OF MR. WILLIAMS, AND THE IMAGES MAY BE DISTURBING TO
3 SOME OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE WATCHING. THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
4 PROVIDES A DETAILED VIEWER DISCRETION ADVISEMENT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE
5 VIDEO, BUT I WANT TO ADD AN EXTRA WORD OF CAUTION BEFORE IT WAS PLAYED.
6 THE VIDEO'S APPROXIMATELY 11 MINUTES 30 SECONDS IN LENGTH. AND WE'RE GOING
7 TO HAVE YOU THAT VIDEO AT THIS TIME AS PART OF THE RECORD.

8

9 **MAN:** HELLO, I AM MATTHEW BURSON, CHIEF OF THE DIVISION FOR THE LOS
10 ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT. THIS FOLLOWING CRITICAL INCIDENT
11 BRIEFING IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT A RECENT
12 INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN A DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING. THE BRIEFING HAS
13 BEEN PREPARED SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE
14 CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED TO THESE. AS PART OF THIS BRIEFING, YOU MAY BE
15 SHOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SCENE AND THE EVIDENCE INVOLVED, BOTH
16 SURVEILLANCE VIDEO AND BODY-WORN CAMERA VIDEO AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
17 RELEVANT TO THE EVENT. WE HOPE THIS PROVIDES YOU WITH A BETTER
18 UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT OCCURRED BASED ON WHAT WE KNOW AS OF THIS MOMENT.
19 THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS VERY THOROUGH USE OF
20 FORCE INVESTIGATIONS. EVERY DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING IS A TRAUMATIC EVENT
21 FOR ALL INVOLVED. EACH DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING IS REVIEWED BY INDEPENDENT
22 INVESTIGATIVE AGENCIES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW AND SHERIFF
23 DEPARTMENT POLICY. EVEN AS THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
24 CONDUCTS ITS OWN INVESTIGATION, INVESTIGATORS AND ATTORNEYS WITH THE LOS
25 ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CONDUCT THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT



January 28, 2021

1 REVIEW WHEN SOMEONE IS STRUCK BY GUNFIRE. THESE INVESTIGATIONS TYPICALLY
2 REQUIRE MULTIPLE WITNESS INTERVIEWS, REVIEW OF VIDEO FOOTAGE AND ANALYSIS
3 OF SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF FORENSIC EVIDENCE. WE ARE IN THE VERY EARLY
4 STAGES OF THIS INVESTIGATION. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE INCIDENT MAY CHANGE
5 AS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE IS COLLECTED, ANALYZED AND REVIEWED. WE DO NOT DRAW
6 CONCLUSIONS ABOUT WHETHER THE INVOLVED DEPARTMENT MEMBERS ACTED CONSISTENT
7 WITH THE LAW OR POLICIES AND OUR TRAINING UNTIL ALL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN
8 AND THE ENTIRE INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETE. A WORD OF CAUTION. THE IMAGES
9 AND INFORMATION YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE MAY BE DISTURBING. WHEN A LAW
10 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER USES FORCE TO EFFECT AN ARREST OF A SUSPECT OR DEFEND
11 AGAINST AN ATTACK, IT CAN BE GRAPHIC AND DIFFICULT TO WATCH. VIEWER
12 DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

13

14 **FEMALE PARTICIPANT:** THIS INCIDENT BEGAN ON OCTOBER 16TH, 2020 AT
15 APPROXIMATELY 5:30 P.M. WHEN TWO DEPUTIES ASSIGNED TO CENTURY STATION WERE
16 CONDUCTING A PATROL CHECK OF THE PARKING LOT AT MONA PARK NEAR THE 2200
17 BLOCK OF EAST 121ST STREET IN UNINCORPORATED LOS ANGELES. AS THEY ENTERED
18 THE PARKING LOT FROM 121ST STREET, THE DEPUTIES OBSERVED 25-YEAR-OLD FRED
19 ALLEN WILLIAMS III HOLDING A HANDGUN WHILE STANDING TO THE SIDE OF A GROUP
20 OF 15 INDIVIDUALS IN THE PARKING LOT. THE DEPUTIES SAW WILLIAM PUT A
21 HANDGUN TO HIS WAISTBAND AND BEGAN RUNNING SOUTH FROM THE DEPUTIES. AS ONE
22 DEPUTY CHASED WILLIAMS ON FOOT, THE DRIVER DEPUTY PURSUED HIM IN THE
23 PATROL CAR TO 22555 EAST 122ND STREET. WILLIAM RAN NORTH OF THE DRIVEWAY
24 OF THE RESIDENCE FOLLOWED BY ONE OF THE DEPUTIES. THE OTHER DEPUTY DROVE
25 AROUND THE BLOCK IN ORDER TO CONTAIN THE AREA. AS WILLIAM RAN THROUGH THE

37



January 28, 2021

1 YARD TO GARDENA SHED AT THE REAR. THE RESIDENTS GATHERED THEIR CHILD AND
2 QUICKLY ENTERED THEIR HOUSE. AS THE DEPUTY, HE ENCOUNTERED WILLIAMS' GUN
3 IN HAND AT THE TOP OF THE SHED AND A DEPUTY INVOLVED, WILLIAM JUMPED INTO
4 THE ADJOINING YARD AS THE DEPUTY BROOD CAST HIS RADIO TRAFFIC UNSURE IF
5 WILLIAM HAD BEEN STRUCK BY THE GUNFIRE. [INAUDIBLE] MALE BLUE SWEATS. Q.
6 YOUR 10-20, SIR? Q. 2255 122ND. Q. 2255 122ND. UNITS WILL RESPOND. 212, 2.
7 J1. Q. I HAVE MULTIPLE UNITS RESPONDING TO EDWARD YOUR SETTING.

8

9 **MAN:** 2014 --

10

11 **FEMALE PARTICIPANT:** WHAT'S THE STREET?

12

13 **MAN:** 132ND.

14

15 **FEMALE:** COPY 122ND.

16

17 **FEMALE PARTICIPANT:** AS ASSISTANT DEPUTIES AN PRIVATE LAWED AND APPROVED
18 IT WAS DETERMINED THAT WILLIAMS HAD BEEN STRUCK BY GUNFIRE AND CPR WAS
19 ADMINISTERED BY DEPUTIES. PARAMEDICS RESPONDED TO THE SCENE TO PROVIDE
20 EMERGENCY TREATMENT. FRED ALLEN WILLIAMS III SUSTAINED A SINGLE GUN SHOT
21 WOUND TO HIS TORSO. KNOW A TAURUS 9 MM SEMI-AUTOMATIC PISTOL LOADED WITH
22 SIX LIVE ROUNDS WAS RECOVERED FROM THE SCENE. THE FIREARM WAS NOT
23 REGISTERED TO FRED ALLEN WILLIAMS III AND RETURNED WITH NO RECORD ON FILE.
24 WILLIAM HAD THREE PREVIOUS FELONY CONVICTIONS FOR BURGLARY. WILLIAM WAS ON
25 ACTIVE PAROLE AND PROHIBITED FROM OWNING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM. THE

38



January 28, 2021

1 INCIDENT WAS CAPTURED ON A HOME SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AS WELL AS A BODY-WORN
2 CAMERA OF THE INVOLVED DEPUTY. THOSE VIDEOS WILL NOW BE PLAYED FOR YOU.
3 MALE WHITE SHIRT BLUE SWEATS. (DOGS BARKING). 55. 2255 122ND STREET. THERE
4 HE IS. PUT YOUR HANDS UP. (GUNSHOTS). Q. HAD MULTIPLE UNITS RESPONDING TO
5 13. EDWARD, YOUR STATUS? Q. 22255 RUNNING JUMPED ON TOP OF ME. 24 -- Q.
6 2417 -- STREET.

7

8 **MAN:** 122ND.

9

10 **FEMALE:** COPY 122ND.

11

12 **MAN:** COME WITH ME TO THE REAR OF THE PROPERTY. AND I DON'T HAVE EYES ON
13 THE SUSPECT.

14

15 **FEMALE PARTICIPANT:** UNITS HOLD --

16

17 **MAN:** I LOST. HE JUMPED A FENCE RIGHT BEFORE, HE FELL OVER, DUDE. HE IS ON
18 THE OTHER SIDE. I HEAR SOMEBODY CALLING THROUGH THE PROPERTY. GOT KIND OF
19 A CROWD FACTOR. [INAUDIBLE]

20

21 **FEMALE PARTICIPANT:** 13 EDWARDS OUTSTANDING WHAT'S THE POSITION.

22

23 **MAN:** I DON'T KNOW, BROS, HE POINTED THE GUN AT ME. POP ME, DUDE. Q. ABOUT
24 300 POUNDS, WEARING BLUE JOGGING AS WELL AS.

25

39



January 28, 2021

1 **MAN:** ARE WE GOING TO HOLD THIS DOWN AND LOCK THIS DOWN? HEY, WE HAVE THE
2 CONTAINMENT. 1221 WILLOWBROOK EAST SIDE OF -- PARK LOCKED DOWN.

3

4 **MAN:** ON THE EAST SIDE OF.

5

6 **MAN:** I GOT A SMALL CROWD. ANOTHER MALE BLOCK POPPED UP. I DON'T KNOW IF
7 THEY RECOVERED ANYTHING. BUT THE SUSPECT DID HAVE BLACK FIREARM IN HIS
8 HAND.

9

10 **FEMALE PARTICIPANT:** CENTURY SIMON YOUR RESPONSE? Q. THE LOS ANGELES
11 COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAS BEGUN A THOROUGH AND INDEPTH
12 INVESTIGATION. HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS WILL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THIS
13 INCIDENT BY COMPLETING ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS, EXAMINING ADDITIONAL
14 EVIDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY RESULTS AND COMPLETING FORENSIC REVIEWS OF THE
15 INVOLVED EVIDENCE. WHEN COMPLETED, THE FACTS OF THE INVESTIGATION WILL BE
16 PRESENTED TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE JUSTICE
17 SYSTEM INTEGRITY DIVISION FOR REVIEW AND A DETERMINATION WHETHER THE FORCE
18 USED WAS WITHIN THE LAW. FOLLOWING THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S REVIEW, THE LOS
19 ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU WILL COMPLETE AN
20 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE INCIDENT. THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU
21 WILL PRESENT THE CASE TO THE EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE, WHICH WILL
22 EVALUATE THE PERFORMANCE OF THE DEPUTIES AND DETERMINE IF THEIR TACTICS
23 AND USE OF DEADLY FORCE WERE WITHIN POLICY AND MET THE HIGH STANDARDS OF
24 THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT. ON BEHALF OF SHERIFF ALEX VILLANUEVA, THE LOS



January 28, 2021

1 ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IS APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR INTEREST AND
2 UNDERSTANDING IN THIS INCIDENT.

3

4 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. I BELIEVE THAT CONCLUDES THE VIDEOTAPE. AND WE WILL
5 GO BACK INTO OTHER MATTERS. NOW, BEFORE WE CALL ON ANY ADDITIONAL
6 WITNESSES, I'D LIKE TO ADD SOME MATTERS TO THE RECORD. THE CORONER ISSUED
7 WITNESS SUBPOENAES FOR THE APPEARANCE AND TESTIMONY OF BOTH OF THE
8 SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES INVOLVED, PERSONALLY INVOLVED IN THE OCTOBER 16TH,
9 2020, INCIDENT THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS. THE CORONER
10 ISSUED THESE SUBPOENAES BEFORE RECEIVING ANY RECORDS FROM THE LOS ANGELES
11 COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AND BEFORE KNOWING THE NAMES. TWO DEPUTIES
12 INVOLVED IN THE SHOOTING OF MR. WILLIAMS. NOW, I HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL
13 ITEMS THAT ARE RELEVANT AT THIS TIME. THE FIRST ITEM I'D LIKE TO REFER TO
14 IS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM SERGEANT JOHN O'BRIEN THE L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF'S
15 DEPARTMENT A THE DECLARATION WHICH HE STATES THAT HE IS A DETECTIVE WITH
16 THE L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HOMICIDE BUREAU AND IS ASSIGNED TO
17 THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS. THIS
18 DECLARATION I WILL SUMMARIZE ASKS THAT IN THE CORONER'S INQUEST THAT THE
19 ADVISES ME THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAS NOT PUBLICLY RELEASED THE NAMES OF
20 THE DEPUTIES INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOTING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE AND
21 I'LL GIVE YOU WILL THE SECTION NUMBERS. GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 62-54 C.
22 62-55 AND PENAL CODE SECTIONS 832.7 SUBB5 D. AND HAS ASKED THAT THE NAMES
23 OF THE DEPUTIES NOT BE PUBLICLY DISCLOSED AS PART OF THE CORONER'S
24 INQUEST. THAT DECLARATION IS ALSO POSTED ON THE VIDEO NOW AND WILL BE PART
25 OF THE RECORD. I HAVE ACCEPTED THAT DECLARATION. AND THE NAMES OF THE

41



January 28, 2021

1 DEPUTIES WILL NOT BE DISCLOSED IN THIS HEARING. THE NAMES OF THE DEPUTIES,
2 FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WERE NOT REDACTED FROM THE SEALED INFORMATION
3 PROVIDED TO ME AND WHICH I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW. OKAY. SUBSEQUENT
4 TO THAT, THE DEPUTIES -- THE DEPUTIES INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT ITSELF WERE
5 SUBPOENAED TO TESTIFY AT TODAY'S HEARINGS. AND THIS IS THE RESULT OF THAT,
6 OF THE CONSEQUENCE OF THAT. WE HAVE TWO SEPARATE DEPUTIES INVOLVED THAT
7 WERE THE INITIAL DEPUTIES AT THE SCENE. I HAVE INDICATED TO THE DEPUTIES
8 THAT THEY ARE ELIGIBLE TO INVOKE THE FIFTH AMENDMENT PROTECTION AGAINST
9 SELF-INCRIMINATION IN THIS PROCEEDINGS; HOWEVER, IT'S MY PERSONAL
10 STATEMENT THAT THEY MUST INVOKE THAT PRIVILEGE PERSONALLY. AS A RESULT OF
11 THAT, I DO HAVE BEFORE ME A DECLARATION FROM ONE OF THESE DEPUTY SHERIFFS
12 THAT INDICATES THAT HE'S A DEPUTY, THAT HE WAS SUBPOENAED FOR THE INQUEST,
13 AND IT IS HIS INTENTION TO INVOKE THE RIGHT AGAINST SELF-INCRIMINATION ON
14 ANY QUESTIONS THAT ARE ASKED DURING THE INQUEST. AND THIS IS A SIGNED AND
15 EXECUTED DECLARATION BY ONE OF THE TWO DEPUTIES AT THE SCENE. AND I HAVE
16 ACCEPTED THAT DECLARATION. THE SECOND DEPUTY AT THE SCENE, WHAT I RECEIVED
17 IN CONNECTION WITH HIS PROPOSED TESTIMONY IS A DECLARATION FROM AN
18 ATTORNEY REPRESENTING TO ME THAT HE IS THE ATTORNEY FOR THAT DEPUTY AND
19 THAT HE ADVISED HIS CLIENT TO TAKE THE FIFTH. I APPRECIATE THAT
20 INFORMATION, BUT THAT IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE -- THAT'S NOT ACCEPTABLE IN
21 LIEU OF THE DECLARATION OF THE SECOND DEPUTY. THE SECOND DEPUTY DOES NEED
22 TO PROVIDE ME WITH A PERSONALLY SIGNED AND EXECUTED DECLARATION THAT HE
23 HIMSELF WOULD EXERCISE THE FIFTH IF HE WAS CALLED TO TESTIFY. SO I AM
24 INFORMED AND BELIEVE THAT HE WILL DO SO IF HE RESPONDED TO THE SUBPOENA.
25 BUT AT THIS POINT, I AM STILL WAITING ON THE DECLARATION FROM THE SECOND



January 28, 2021

1 DEPUTY. AND I WILL -- WE WILL PURSUE THAT INQUIRY A LITTLE BIT FURTHER SO
2 THAT I CAN GET SOME CLOSURE ON THAT POINT BEFORE WE REACH OUR FINDINGS IN
3 THIS MATTER. NOW, THAT, THEN, IS THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE TWO
4 DEPUTIES THAT WERE THE INITIAL RESPONDING DEPUTIES AT THE SCENE. NOW, WE
5 ALSO ISSUED SUBPOENAES FOR THE APPEARANCE AND TESTIMONY OF THE DETECTIVES
6 ASSIGNED TO INVESTIGATE THE SHOOTING DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS, AND WE WILL
7 NOW PROCEED TO THAT PORTION OF THE HEARING. AND SO MR. MILLER, IT IS MY
8 UNDERSTANDING YOU'RE GOING TO BE CALLING THE NEXT WITNESS IN THAT REGARD?

9

10 **MICHAEL MILLER:** THAT'S CORRECT, JUSTICE COOPER. THE CORONER WOULD CALL
11 DETECTIVE O'BRIEN. I BELIEVE HE MAY BE ON -- WE'RE ADMITTING HIM REMOTELY
12 NOW.

13

14 **JUSTICE COOPER:** SERGEANT O'BRIEN, ARE YOU PRESENT YET? OKAY. STILL MAKING
15 THAT CONNECTION. SERGEANT O'BRIEN, IS THAT YOU?

16

17 **THE WITNESS:** YES, IT IS.

18

19 **JUSTICE COOPER:** I SEE YOU AND CAN HEAR YOU CLEARLY. I'M JUSTICE COOPER,
20 AND I'M THE HEARING EXAMINER HERE TODAY. YOU ARE THE SAME SERGEANT O'BRIEN
21 THAT SUBMITTED THE DECLARATION REGARDING THE IDENTITY OF THE DEPUTIES THAT
22 I'VE JUST RECENTLY REFERRED TO?

23

24 **THE WITNESS:** YES, MA'AM.

25

43



January 28, 2021

1 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. THANK YOU. LET'S PUT THE NAME AND THE FACE
2 TOGETHER. THERE'S GOING TO BE SOME ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR YOU, SO I NEED
3 TO SWEAR YOU IN. WOULD YOU PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND? DO YOU SOLEMNLY
4 SWEAR THE TESTIMONY YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE IN THE PRECEDING SHALL BE THE
5 TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH?

6
7 **THE WITNESS:** YES, I DO.

8
9 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. THANK YOU. I'M GOING TO TURN THE EXAMINATION HERE
10 OVER TO MR. MICHAEL MILLER FROM THE COUNTY COUNSEL.

11
12 **MICHAEL MILLER:** THANK YOU. AND GOOD MORNING, DETECTIVE O'BRIEN.

13
14 **THE WITNESS:** GOOD MORNING. Q. BEFORE WE START, WILL YOU PLEASE STATE YOUR
15 FULL NAME AND SPELL IT FOR THE RECORD. A. JOHN O'BRIEN. J-O-H-N, O
16 APOSTROPHE B-R-I-E-N. Q. THANK YOU. AND, DETECTIVE O'BRIEN, CAN YOU PLEASE
17 TELL US -- TELL US YOUR OCCUPATION, PLEASE. A. YES, I'M A SERGEANT FOR THE
18 LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT. I'M CURRENTLY AN SOUND TO SHERIFF'S
19 HOMICIDE BUREAU. Q. THANK YOU.

20
21 **MICHAEL MILLER:** ONE MOMENT. ONE MOMENT, JUSTICE COOPER.

22
23 **JUSTICE COOPER:** ALL RIGHT.

24

44



January 28, 2021

1 **MICHAEL MILLER:** I'M SORRY. WE WERE DISCUSSING WHETHER THE OATH WAS GIVEN.
2 I BELIEVE IT WAS.

3

4 **THE WITNESS:** YES. Q. WHERE ARE YOU CURRENTLY EMPLOYED? A. I'M EMPLOYED BY
5 LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND I'M ASSIGNED TO THE HOMICIDE
6 BUREAU. Q. THANK YOU. AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EMPLOYED THERE? A. WITH
7 THE DEPARTMENT, 33 YEARS. AT HOMICIDE BUREAU FOR THE LAST 11 YEARS. Q.
8 THANK YOU FOR THAT. AND CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOUR
9 BACKGROUND, TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE AS IT RELATES TO YOUR OCCUPATION AS A
10 DEPUTY SHERIFF AS WELL AS A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE. A. YES, MY BACKGROUND
11 EXPERIENCE STARTED WHEN I WAS HIRED IN 1989 AS A DEPUTY WHERE I ATTENDED
12 THE SHERIFF'S ACADEMY. I GRADUATED FROM CLASS 257 AND THEN WAS TRANSFERRED
13 TO THE CUSTODY DIVISION WHERE I SPENT 5-1/2 YEARS WORKING IN THE COUNTY
14 JAILS AT MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL AS WELL AS NORTH COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
15 IN SAUGUS. IN 1995, I WAS TRANSFERRED TO PATROL ASSIGNMENT AT CENTURY
16 STATION WHERE I WORKED UNTIL 2007 AS A FIELD DEPUTY, AS A FIELD TRAINING
17 OFFICER, AND ALSO AS A DETECTIVE, STATION DETECTIVE. I THEN TRANSFERRED TO
18 SAN DIMAS STATION FOR THE NEXT THE TWO YEARS AS A DETECTIVE AND THEN
19 PROMOTED IN 2009 TO SERGEANT WHERE I RETURNED TO CENTURY STATION AS A
20 FIELD SUPERVISOR. AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO HOMICIDE BUREAU IN 2010. Q.
21 THANK YOU. AND CAN YOU TELL US WHAT DOCUMENTS, IF ANY, THAT YOU REVIEWED
22 IN PREPARATION FOR YOUR TESTIMONY HERE TODAY. A. WE SUBMITTED AND I
23 REVIEWED PRETTY MUCH EVERY DOCUMENT THAT WE HAD ON OUR CASE, INCLUDING OUR
24 SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS, THE ORIGINAL CRIMINAL REPORTS THAT WERE AUTHORED,
25 SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS BY OUR ASSISTING DETECTIVES, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE THAT

45



January 28, 2021

1 WAS RECOVERED FROM THE SCENE, AND BODY-WORN CAMERA VIDEO THAT WAS
2 RECOVERED FROM THE DEPUTY'S CAMERA. Q. THANK YOU. AND THOSE WERE THE SAME
3 DOCUMENTS THAT WERE PROVIDED TO JUSTICE COOPER UNDER SEAL? A. CORRECT. Q.
4 THANK YOU. CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOUR ASSIGNMENT WAS ON OCTOBER 16TH OF
5 LAST YEAR? A. I WAS ASSIGNED AS THE -- ONE OF THE HANDLING INVESTIGATORS
6 ON A DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING OUT OF CENTURY STATION. Q. APRIL THAT WAS IN
7 REGARDS TO MR. FRED WILLIAMS III? A. CORRECT. Q. AND HOW WAS THAT
8 ASSIGNMENT MADE? A. WE ARE ON A ROTATING BASIS. AND WHEN THE NEXT HOMICIDE
9 OR DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING COMES IN, YOU ARE ASSIGNED WHEN YOU'RE AT THE
10 TOP OF THE LIST. AND MY PARTNER AND I WERE THE NEXT TEAM UP. AND WE WERE
11 ASSIGNED AND DISPATCHED OUT TO THE SCENE. Q. AND WHEN YOU SAY YOUR
12 PARTNER, IS THAT DETECTIVE DIMMITT? A. CORRECT. Q. AND WHAT INFORMATION
13 DID YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU WERE DISPATCHED TO THE LOCATION OF MR. WILLIAMS?
14 A. PRELIMINARY INFORMATION WAS VERY BRIEF, THAT THERE HAD BEEN A DEPUTY-
15 INVOLVED SHOOTING AND THE SUSPECT HAD BEEN HIT AND WAS DECEASED AT THE
16 SCENE.

17

18 **SPEAKER:** AND ARE YOU CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO THE ONGOING -- TO THE
19 INVESTIGATION OF -- TO THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS? A. YES. Q. AND ARE YOU
20 WORKING WITH ANYONE ELSE IN THAT INVESTIGATION? A. DETECTIVE DIMMITT IS
21 ALSO IN PART OF THE INVESTIGATION. WE DID HAVE SOME ASSISTING DETECTIVES.
22 AT THIS TIME THEY ARE NOT CURRENTLY INVOLVED. BUT INITIALLY THEY DID
23 PROCESS THE CRIME SCENE FOR US. Q. AND HAS YOUR INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED?
24 A. NO. IT IS STILL CURRENTLY OPEN AND ONGOING. Q. OKAY. AS PART OF YOUR
25 ASSIGNMENT AS A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE, YOU INDICATED THAT YOU AT SOME POINT

46



January 28, 2021

1 PROCEEDED TO THE LOCATION WHERE MR. WILLIAMS' BODY WAS FOUND? A. CORRECT.
2 Q. AND WAS THAT ON OCTOBER 16TH OF LAST YEAR? A. YES. Q. OKAY. AND
3 APPROXIMATELY WHAT TIME DID YOU ARRIVE AT THAT PRIVATE RESIDENCE? A. I
4 ARRIVED AT THE COMMAND POST AT 1930 HOURS. AS FAR AS THE ACTUAL RESIDENCE?
5 I WOULD HAVE TO ESTIMATE SOMEWHERE AROUND 20, 20, 15 HOURS. Q. IS THAT
6 APPROXIMATELY 8:15 IN THE EVENING? A. CORRECT. IN THE EVENING P.M., YES.
7
8 **SPEAKER:** AND WAS ANYONE WITH YOU WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED? TO THAT
9 LOCATION? A. YES. THE ASSISTING DETECTIVES, MY PARTNER, DETECTIVE DIMMITT,
10 I BELIEVE MY LIEUTENANT, LIEUTENANT BARRY HALL. Q. OKAY. AND CAN YOU IN A
11 NARRATIVE FORM JUST DESCRIBE THE OBSERVATIONS YOU MADE WHEN YOU FIRST
12 ARRIVED TO THAT RESIDENCE? A. I BELIEVE ALL THAT INFORMATION WILL BE
13 DETAILED IN OUR REPORTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED UNDER THE SEAL.
14 UNFORTUNATELY THIS KIND OF PUTS US IN A BAD SPOT. WE HAVE TO KEEP THE
15 INTEGRITY OF THE INVESTIGATION AND DUE TO THE FACT THAT THIS IS AN ONGOING
16 AND OPEN INVESTIGATION, I RESPECTFULLY STATE I CAN'T PUBLICLY TESTIFY OR
17 DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION PERTAINING TO
18 EVIDENCE CODE 1040 TO 1043. AS IT MAY COMPROMISE THE INVESTIGATION. Q.
19 OKAY. SO WOULD YOU BE CLAIMING THAT OFFICIAL PRIVILEGE, OFFICIAL
20 INFORMATION PRIVILEGE TO ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR PERSONAL
21 OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIONS AS IT'S IN REGARDS TO YOUR INVESTIGATION OF MR.
22 WILLIAMS' DEATH? A. YES. MY ACTIONS, MY OBSERVATIONS ARE PART OF THIS OPEN
23 INVESTIGATION AND HAVE BEEN DETAILED IN OUR REPORTS WHICH HAVE BEEN
24 SUBMITTED FOR THE REVIEW OF JUSTICE COOPER IN A SEALED DOCUMENT. Q. OKAY.
25 DETECTIVE O'BRIEN, ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL FACTS THAT YOU CAN SHARE WITH



January 28, 2021

1 US ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE SHOOTING DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS THAT
2 YOU DO NOT CONSIDER TO BE PROTECTED PRIVILEGE, OFFICIAL INFORMATION AT
3 THIS TIME? A. OTHER THAN WHAT HAS BEEN PUBLICLY RELEASED ALREADY IN THE
4 VIDEO THAT WE JUST WATCHED, I WOULD RESPECTFULLY SAY NO, I CANNOT TESTIFY
5 OR PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT THIS TIME. Q. AND JUST TO
6 CLARIFY. THAT'S BECAUSE BY DOING THAT, DOING SO, YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD
7 COMPROMISE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION? A. THAT IS CORRECT.
8 Q. OKAY.

9

10 **MICHAEL MILLER:** JUSTICE COOPER, BASED ON DETECTIVE O'BRIEN'S INVOCATION
11 OF THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION PRIVILEGE, HOW DO YOU WISH TO PROCEED?

12

13 **JUSTICE COOPER:** HOW I WISH TO PROCEED IS BASED ON DETECTIVE O'BRIEN'S
14 ASSERTION OF THE EVIDENCE CODE SECTION 1040 OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION
15 PRIVILEGE, I DO NOT BELIEVE THERE WILL BE ANY FURTHER TESTIMONY
16 FORTHCOMING. THE ASSERTION OF THE PRIVILEGE IS ACKNOWLEDGED AND THERE WILL
17 BE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR DETECTIVE O'BRIEN.

18

19 **MICHAEL MILLER:** THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. AND YOU'RE EXCUSED, I BELIEVE
20 FROM TESTIFYING.

21

22 **JUSTICE COOPER:** YOU ARE EXCUSED FROM THIS PROCEEDING.

23

24 **THE WITNESS:** THANK YOU, MA'AM.

25

48



January 28, 2021

1 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY, THANK YOU. I BELIEVE WE ARE GOING TO, HOWEVER, GET,
2 YOU WANT MR.-- DETECTIVE DIMMITT.

3

4 **FEMALE PARTICIPANT:** HELLO, HELLO, HELLO.

5

6 **JUSTICE COOPER:** WHO IS SPEAKING?

7

8 **THE REPORTER:** I LOST YOU FOR A SECOND. I THOUGHT I LOST ALL.

9

10 **JUSTICE COOPER:** NO, WE'RE JUST WAITING FOR THE NEXT WITNESS TO COME ON
11 SCREEN.

12

13 **THE REPORTER:** THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.

14

15 **JUSTICE COOPER:** YOU'RE WELCOME. OKAY. I SEE A FACE. DETECTIVE DIMMITT,
16 CAN YOU HEAR ME, SIR? DETECTIVE DIMMITT, CAN YOU HEAR ME? DETECTIVE
17 DIMMITT, I CAN SEE YOU. CAN YOU HEAR ME? ARE YOU ON MUTE?

18

19 **THE WITNESS:** CAN YOU HEAR ME?

20

21 **JUSTICE COOPER:** I CAN HEAR YOU, DETECTIVE DIMMITT, CAN YOU HEAR ME?

22

23 **THE WITNESS:** YES, YOUR HONOR.

24

49



January 28, 2021

1 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY, GREAT. THEN WE'RE READY. OKAY SIR. MY NAME IS
2 CANDACE COOPER. I AM THE HEARING OFFICER FOR TODAY. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN
3 BY SWEARING YOU IN. WOULD YOU PLEASE RAISE YOUR RIGHT HAND? DO YOU
4 SOLEMNLY SWEAR THE TESTIMONY YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE IN THE CAUSE NOW PENDING
5 SHALL TO BE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH?

6

7 **THE WITNESS:** I DO.

8

9 **JUSTICE COOPER:** WOULD YOU PLEADS STATE AND SPELL YOUR FULL NAME. A. MY
10 NAME IS CHRISTOPHER DIMMITT. C-H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-R, LAST DIMMITT, D-I-M-M-
11 I-T-T.

12

13 **JUSTICE COOPER:** THANK YOU. YOU ARE GOING TO BE EXAMINED BY MR. MILLER
14 FROM THE COUNTY COUNSEL.

15

16 **MICHAEL MILLER:** Q. GOOD MORNING, DETECTIVE DIM IT, CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US
17 YOUR OCCUPATION? A. I AM A DEPUTY SHERIFF FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

18 Q. AND WHAT IS YOUR FULL TITLE? A. I'M A DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO HOMICIDE

19 BUREAU. Q. THANK YOU. AND HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN EMPLOYED WITH THE LOS

20 ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT? A. APPROXIMATELY 15 YEARS. Q. THANK

21 YOU. AND CAN YOU PLEASE TELL US YOUR BACKGROUND, TRAINING, AND EXPERIENCE

22 AS IT RELATES TO YOUR OCCUPATION AS A SHERIFF'S DEPUTY AS WELL AS A

23 HOMICIDE DETECTIVE? A. YES. I WAS HIRED BY THE LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S

24 DEPARTMENT IN 2006 WHERE I ATTENDED THE LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S ACADEMY.

25 AFTER COMPLETING AND GRADUATING FROM THE ACADEMY, I WAS ASSIGNED TO NORTH



January 28, 2021

1 COUNTY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WHERE I WORKED THE JAIL UP IN SANTA CLARITA.
2 I WORKED THERE FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS BUT THEN I WAS ASSIGNED AS A
3 PATROL DEPUTY TO PALMDALE SHERIFF'S STATION UP IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY. I
4 WORKED THERE FROM 2006 TO 2012 WHERE MY DUTIES INCLUDE WORKING AS A PATROL
5 DEPUTY AS WELL AS BEING A FIELD TRAINING OFFICER. AFTER THAT, I WAS
6 ASSIGNED AT OUR OPERATIONS SAFE STREETS BUREAU WHERE I WORKED AS A GANG
7 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR YEARS. AND IN 2,000 -- I
8 BELIEVE IT WAS 2015, I WAS ASSIGNED BACK TO PALMDALE SHERIFF'S STATION AS
9 A STATION-LEVEL DETECTIVE. I WORKED AT PALMDALE SHERIFF'S STATION FOR TWO
10 YEARS, BUT THEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL VICTIMS BUREAU WHERE I
11 INVESTIGATED SEX CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN. THEN I WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ASSIGNED
12 TO HOMICIDE BUREAU. AND I'VE BEEN AT HOMICIDE BUREAU FOR ABOUT 15 MONTHS
13 NOW. Q. OKAY. AND CAN YOU TELL US YOUR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A
14 HOMICIDE DETECTIVE AND WHAT THAT ENTAILS? A. YES. AS A HOMICIDE
15 INVESTIGATOR, OUR DUTIES ARE TO INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND CAUSES
16 SURROUNDING DEATHS, DEATH INVESTIGATIONS. DEATH INVESTIGATIONS CAN BE
17 ANYTHING FROM A MURDER TO A SUICIDE TO AN INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT. AND WE ALSO
18 INVESTIGATE DEPUTY OR OFFICER-INVOLVED SHOOTINGS. Q. THANK YOU. AND CAN
19 YOU LET US KNOW WHAT DOCUMENTS, IF ANY, YOU REVIEWED IN YOUR PREPARATION
20 FOR YOUR TESTIMONY HERE TODAY? A. YES. I REVIEWED ALL THE SUPPLEMENTAL
21 REPORTS THAT I AUTHORED AS WELL AS WATCHED THE BODY CAMERA FOOTAGE
22 COLLECTED FROM THE DEPUTIES WHO WERE AT THE SCENE. I ALSO WATCHED THE
23 SECURITY CAMERA FOOTAGE THAT WAS COLLECTED FROM THE SCENE. I BELIEVE ALL
24 OF WHICH WAS SUBMITTED UNDER SEAL TO JUSTICE COOPER. Q. THANK YOU. AND CAN
25 YOU TELL US WHAT YOUR ASSIGNMENT WAS ON OCTOBER 16 OF LAST YEAR? A. YES. I



January 28, 2021

1 WAS ASSIGNED AS A LEAD INVESTIGATOR ALONG WITH SERGEANT O'BRIEN TO A
2 DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING AT A CENTURY SHERIFF'S STATION. Q. AND WAS THAT
3 THE SHOOTING OF MR. FRED WILLIAMS III? A. THAT IS CORRECT. Q. OKAY. AND
4 HOW WAS THAT ASSIGNMENT MADE? A. THAT ASSIGNMENT WAS MADE, WE HAVE A
5 ROTATION SYSTEM HERE AT HOMICIDE BUREAU. BASICALLY, WHEN YOU'RE NEXT UP ON
6 THE LIST AND SOMETHING HAPPENS, A MURDER OR A SHOOTING, A DEPUTY-INVOLVED
7 SHOOTING, YOU RECEIVED A PHONE CALL AND YOU RESPOND TO THE SCENE. AND
8 THAT'S WHAT I DID IN THIS CASE. Q. OKAY. AND APPROXIMATELY WHAT TIME DID
9 YOU RECEIVE THAT PHONE CALL? A. I DON'T RECALL EXACTLY WHAT TIME I
10 RECEIVED THE PHONE CALL. I ARRIVED AT THE COMMAND POST ABOUT 7:50 IN THE
11 EVENING. SO I WOULD GUESS ABOUT AN HOUR PRIOR TO THAT I RECEIVED THE PHONE
12 CALL. Q. AND WHAT INFORMATION DID YOU RECEIVE WHEN YOU WERE DISPATCHED TO
13 THE LOCATION OF MR. WILLIAMS? A. WE RECEIVED BASIC INFORMATION THAT A
14 DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING HAD OCCURRED AND THAT THERE WAS A SUSPECT
15 DECEASED AT THE SCENE. Q. AND ARE YOU STILL CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO
16 INVESTIGATE THE DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS? A. I AM. Q. AND ARE YOU WORKING
17 WITH ANYONE ON THAT INVESTIGATION? A. YES. MY PARTNER, SERGEANT JOHN
18 O'BRIEN. Q. OKAY. AND HAS THAT INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED? A. NO, IT HAS NOT.
19 Q. OKAY. AND YOU INDICATED AFTER YOU WERE ASSIGNED AND YOU RECEIVED SOME
20 PRELIMINARY INFORMATION, YOU WERE DISPATCHED AND ARRIVED TO THE LOCATION
21 OF WHERE MR. WILLIAMS' BODY WAS. A. CORRECT. WE RESPONDED TO THE COMMAND
22 POST FIRST AND THEN SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE SCENE. Q. WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF
23 RESPONDING TO THE COMMAND POST FIRST, IF ANY? A. THE COMMAND POST IS WHERE
24 EVERYBODY RESPONDS AND GETS A PRELIMINARY BASIC BRIEFING OF WHAT HAPPENED.
25 AND THEN WE RESPONDED TO THE SCENE. Q. AND CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THAT --



January 28, 2021

1 WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN THAT BRIEFING? WHAT INFORMATION YOU WERE GIVEN? A.
2 THE BRIEFING WAS BASICALLY THE SAME THING I RECEIVED OVER THE PHONE, THAT
3 A DEPUTY-INVOLVED SHOOTING HAD OCCURRED AND THERE WAS A SUSPECT DECEASED
4 AT THE SCENE. Q. OKAY. AND SO YOU ARRIVED AT THE COMMAND POST
5 APPROXIMATELY 6:50 P.M., YOU SAID. APPROXIMATELY WHAT TIME DID YOU ARRIVE
6 TO THE PRIVATE RESIDENCE WHERE MR. WILLIAMS' BODY WAS LOCATED? A. PROBABLY
7 ABOUT 15 TO 20 MINUTES AFTER ARRIVING AT THE COMMAND POST. IT'S SAY 8:15,
8 8:20-ISH. Q. AND THAT'S P.M.? A. CORRECT. Q. OKAY. AND WAS ANYONE WITH YOU
9 IN YOUR VEHICLE WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT THE LOCATION?

10

11 I BELIEVE MY PARTNER AND I, JOHN O'BRIEN, RODE TOGETHER IN A CAR. AND WE
12 ARRIVED AT THE SCENE TOGETHER. Q. OKAY. AND WHAT OBSERVATIONS DID YOU MAKE
13 WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED AT THE SCENE? A. ALL OUR OBSERVATIONS, ALL MY
14 OBSERVATIONS WERE DOCUMENTED IN MY SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT THAT WAS SUBMITTED
15 UNDER SEAL TO JUSTICE COOPER. BECAUSE THE INVESTIGATION'S ON GOING AT THIS
16 TIME, I CANNOT PUBLICLY TESTIFY TO OR DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING
17 THAT INVESTIGATION PURSUANT TO EVIDENCE CODE 1040 THROUGH 1043 AS DOING SO
18 MAY COMPROMISE THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION OR THE OUTCOME OF THE
19 INVESTIGATION. Q. OKAY. IN ADDITION TO YOUR OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIONS, THAT
20 WOULD INCLUDE NOT DISCLOSING ANY OF THE CONTENTS OF THE INTERVIEWS YOU
21 CONDUCTED? A. THAT IS CORRECT. Q. OKAY. AS WELL AS ANY EVIDENCE YOU
22 COLLECTED? A. CORRECT. Q. OKAY. DETECTIVE DIMMITT, IS THERE ANY FACTS OR
23 INFORMATION THAT YOU CAN SHARE WITH US TODAY ABOUT YOUR INVESTIGATION INTO
24 THE SHOOTING DEATH OF MR. WILLIAMS THAT YOU DO NOT CONSIDER TO BE
25 PROTECTED PRIVILEGE OFFICIAL INFORMATION? A. NO, I DO NOT. Q. OKAY. IS

53



January 28, 2021

1 THERE ANY TESTIMONY THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO MAKE TODAY THAT YOU BELIEVE IS
2 RELEVANT TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES, CAUSE, OR MANNER OF MR. WILLIAMS' DEATH? A.
3 NO, UNFORTUNATELY AT THIS TIME I CANNOT THANK YOU, DETECTIVE DIMMITT.

4

5 >> **MICHAEL MILLER:** JUSTICE COOPER, BASED ON DETECTIVE DIMMITT'S
6 INVOCATION. OFFICIAL INFORMATION PRIVILEGE, I BELIEVE WE CAN ALSO EXCUSE
7 HIM FROM ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY UNLESS YOU WISH TO PROCEED DIFFERENTLY.

8

9 **JUSTICE COOPER:** NO. IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING, DETECTIVE, THAT YOU WOULD NOT
10 ANSWER ANY SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE BALANCE OF YOUR
11 INVESTIGATION DURING THIS INQUEST; CORRECT?

12

13 **THE WITNESS:** THAT'S CORRECT.

14

15 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. FOR THAT REASON, THOUGH, I ACCEPT YOUR ASSERTION OF
16 THE EVIDENCE CODE PRIVILEGE AND THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS FOR YOU
17 TODAY.

18

19 **THE WITNESS:** THANK YOU, JUSTICE.

20

21 **MICHAEL MILLER:** THANK YOU.

22

23 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. I THINK FOR THE DAY, THAT CONCLUDES THE WITNESSES
24 TO BE CALLED TODAY, IS THAT CORRECT?

25

54



January 28, 2021

1 **MICHAEL MILLER:** THAT IS CORRECT. THE CORONER DOES NOT HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL
2 WITNESSES THEY WISH TO CALL AT THIS TIME.

3

4 **JUSTICE COOPER:** OKAY. LET ME MAKE SOME REMARKS. I'M GOING TO BACK UP A
5 MOMENT TO THE DEPUTIES THAT WERE NOT THE HOMICIDE DETECTIVES THAT WE JUST
6 HEARD FROM BUT THE DETECTIVES THAT WERE THE DEPUTIES, EXCUSE ME, THAT WERE
7 AT THE SCENE, AS I INDICATED FIRST, ONE DEPUTY DID RESPOND WITH A
8 DECLARATION INDICATING THAT HE WOULD BE ASSERTING THE FIFTH AMENDMENT. I
9 THINK THE DEPUTIES THAT WERE AT THE SCENE ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE ASSERTION
10 OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT PRIVILEGE. AND I WOULD ACCEPT THOSE DECLARATIONS.
11 AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, I ONLY HAVE ONE SUCH DECLARATION. THE DECLARATION
12 OF COUNSEL FOR THE REMAINING DEPUTY THAT HE HAS ADVISED HIS CLIENT TO TAKE
13 THE FIFTH IS USEFUL INFORMATION, BUT IT WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE IN LIEU OF A
14 DECLARATION, PERSONAL DECLARATION FROM THAT REMAINING DEPUTY. SO I DO NOT
15 REGARD THAT DEPUTY AS HAVING RESPONDED FULLY TO THE SUBPOENA AS OF YET. IF
16 THERE ARE ANY VALID REASON WHY THAT DEPUTY DECIDED NOT TO APPEAR OR
17 RESPOND TO THE SUBPOENA, I NEED TO HEAR FURTHER ABOUT THOSE REASONS. I
18 WILL NOT ADJOURN THE INQUEST UNTIL I HAVE A RESPONSE. IF EITHER THE DEPUTY
19 OR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FEELS THE SUBPOENAES ARE -- OR THAT SUBPOENA
20 IS INVALID FOR SOME REASON, THE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO TAKE WOULD BE TO
21 MOVE TO QUASH THE SUBPOENA IN THE APPROPRIATE VENUE. OTHERWISE, I AM GOING
22 TO SIMPLY ADJOURN TODAY'S PROCEEDING AND AWAIT TO HEAR AND RECEIVE THE
23 PERSONAL SIGNED DECLARATION OF THE REMAINING DEPUTY REGARDING HIS TAKING
24 OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT FOR PURPOSES OF THIS INQUEST. NOW, THAT, THEN,
25 WOULD BE THE BALANCE OF THE INFORMATION TO BE RECEIVED IN THIS HEARING.



January 28, 2021

1 THAT CONCLUDES THE WITNESSES' TESTIMONY FOR TODAY. THERE ARE NO FURTHER
2 WITNESSES BASED ON MY REVIEW OF THE RECORDS THAT NEED TO BE CALLED IN THIS
3 PROCEEDING. I WILL ADJOURN TO REVIEW THE MATERIALS AND THE RECORDS THAT I
4 HAVE RECEIVED IN ORDER TO REACH MY DETERMINATION. AGAIN, I'M STILL GOING
5 TO BE WAITING FOR THE MISSING DECLARATION FROM THE REMAINING DEPUTIES. IF
6 THE INFORMATION THAT IS PUBLICLY AVAILABLE IS SUFFICIENT FOR ME TO REACH
7 THE CONCLUSIONS REQUIRED FOR THE CORONER'S INQUEST, THEN I WILL BE ABLE TO
8 MOVE FORWARD WITH THAT RESULT. AS I INDICATED FURTHER EARLIER IN THE
9 INTRODUCTION TODAY, THE CORONER'S INQUEST IS LIMITED TO THE PURPOSES
10 STATED. AND I AM REQUIRED TO MAKE FOUR SPECIFIC FINDINGS, WHICH I DETAILED
11 ALSO EARLIER. THERE IS NO OTHER FUNCTION OF THIS INQUEST OTHER THAN TO
12 MAKE THOSE -- OTHER THAN TO MAKE THOSE FINDINGS. SO, THAT BEING THE CASE,
13 I BELIEVE THAT THAT CONCLUDES ALL THAT IS NECESSARILY TO BE DONE TODAY.
14 THERE ARE NO FURTHER WITNESSES TO BE CALLED. AND I AM GOING TO -- I'M NOT
15 GOING TO CONCLUDE. I'M GOING TO ADJOURN THIS HEARING. I'LL CONSULT FURTHER
16 WITH MEMBERS OF COUNTY COUNSEL WHO ARE MY STAFF FOR THIS PURPOSE. AND WE
17 WILL SEE WHAT WE CAN DO TO TRACK DOWN THAT REMAINING DECLARATION.
18 OTHERWISE, THEN, WE ARE NOW ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY. THANK EVERYONE FOR YOUR
19 TIME AND YOUR ATTENTION.

